



# See Here, Private Hargrove!

by Marion Hargrove

**SYNOPSIS**  
**CHAPTER I**—Edward Thomas Hargrove, feature writer for the Waynesville Mountaineer, is inducted into the army. He is assigned to the 105th Central Postal Directory. Before he begins an actual tour of duty, he is given a physical examination. He issues his quota of advice to prospective inductees. After his induction Hargrove meets his new buddies, leaves his home in North Carolina, and begins his basic training.

**CHAPTER II**—Private Hargrove is given a physical exam, the first of the days of army, how he was out-fitted with his uniform, and how on the sixth day he received his first haircut. He is classified as a semi-skilled cook.

**CHAPTER III**  
 I slipped into the squadroom so the sergeant wouldn't notice. I was wearing fatigue clothes. The voice rang out to me as I opened the door, and I slunk in guiltily.

The sergeant's face showed that he was hurt. "You were on KP today, weren't you, Hargrove?"

I lowered my eyes and scuffed my feet against the floor. "Yes, sir."

"Oh, I got so discouraged sometimes," the sergeant said. "I try hard to make something of you and what good does it do? Every time I go through the kitchen I see you in there scrubbing the sink! How many times have you been on KP this week?"

"Only three times, sir," I said, minding his eyes.

"It was all the corporal's fault," I said, looking around to make sure that the corporal wasn't there to defend himself. "Just because I spit-faced a few times when I was supposed to left-face, and I zipped when I should have zagged, and because I forgot and smoked in ranks and a few other things like that."

"And," said the sergeant shaking his head sadly, "you just turned around casually every time he ordered 'about-face.' And you kept marching your feet all through drill, like you stayed out-of-step all morning and you took those plow-strides of yours and walked all over the man in front of you. And you passed the drillmaster three times. And you generally spoiled the whole morning's drill. Why can't you be a good boy and learn the drills?"

"I don't mean to be bad, sir," I said.

"And that's another thing," the sergeant moaned. "Why must you 'sir' to the noncommissioned officers and forget to salute the commissioned ones?" He mopped his forehead with a handkerchief. "Do you know what the top sergeant told me to-

"I said, twisting my mouth around the worst. 'You don't 'sir' me!' and don't 'sir' me!"

The battery commander looked at the carpet yesterday and today leaning on the table, and he said your feet eight times. As he saluted four times and when you saluted him as a European heel, he said, 'You told him, 'sergeant' and forgot to salute me, you left.'"

"I thought it on the way to the barracks, sir," I explained. "I went all the way to the mess hall and saluted the sergeant."

"Jehoshaphat," the sergeant said. "What's anything else, sir?"

"Nothing, sir," I said.

"Hargrove," he said, "I've seen you with those perspiration drops on your forehead. Thank you, sir," I said. I saluted him with my hands, and turned around. "Hargrove," he tired voice said. "I'm supposed to salute a noncommissioned officer. Never mind, Hargrove. Just go to bed."

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By the time Congress says I may go home and be a mere civilian again, I suppose I'll be the best soldier at Fort Bragg. At least I seem to get more individual attention

man anyone else. Private tutoring, I always tell the boys.

We were at work the other morning learning how to handle a rifle. The sergeant was putting us through our paces.

"Hargrove," he said with infinite sweetness, "where is the balance of your rifle?"

"This is all the supply sergeant gave me, sir," I said. "I thought it was all here."

The sergeant slapped his forehead and mumbled something furiously under his breath. "Wonder-child," he said, "this (pointing) is the balance of your rifle. I can't imagine why they call it that, unless it's because when you hold the rifle there with one hand, it's balanced." He then went on for a few minutes, explaining a few of the things I had still failed to master.

"Now do you understand it?" he asked, beaming at me with a look made of all sweet accord.

"No, sir," I said.

The sergeant sighed wearily. "Private Hargrove," he said, "right down by the next barracks there's a group of young people who are practicing with rifles for the first time. They haven't had theirs for three days like you have. Run along down there and see if you can keep up with them."

I tried. There was some confusion about the orders, however. At the end of a movement where I wound up with my rifle on my left shoulder, the rest of the detail had theirs on the right. I noticed also that I usually finished a command long before the others.

The sergeant in charge of the detail commenced on this. "You know, Shorty," he said, "you have all of these routines worked out much better than the War Department was able to do them. Where it took them sixteen counts to complete the sixteen-count manual, you always manage somehow to complete it in twelve."

I was still blushing modestly when he called the corporal over. He said something to the corporal, who took me by the elbow and guided me gently around the building at a spot where, he said, the battery officers wouldn't see me drilling and thereby be discouraged.

"This," he said, pronouncing each syllable slowly and distinctly, "is what we have come to call a rifle. R-i-f-l-e. It is used for the purpose of shooting. Primitive man, we are told, did not have a rifle. Primitive man was forced to bring down his supper with a knife, a spear, a stone, a bow and arrows or his own little primitive hands."

I nodded automatically and paid scant attention to all this. I already knew it.

"Today," he continued, "civilization has been improved upon to the extent that—" and he went on and on. After that we began at the beginning of the manual of arms and took each command slowly. The corporal sweated for forty-five minutes.

"Are there any questions now, Private Hargrove?"

"I thought for a while, 'Yes, sir,'" I said. "That is, 'yes, corporal.' What use will I have for a rifle? I'm going to be a cook."

The corporal mopped his brow. "Well, Private Hargrove," he said, "putting me lovingly on the shoulder, 'You'll find use for it. Ha! ha! in the first place, you can peel potatoes with a bayonet. And in the second place—if you're as good a cook as you are a soldier—you'll need it every day. After breakfast, lunch, and supper, you'll need it to protect yourself from murder at the hands of your comrades in arms.'"

"So, huh, Private Hargrove," the sergeant sighed. "Can't you try just once to do something right? Don't you want to be a credit to the platoon? You don't want us to be the worst bunch in the battery after we've been the best for so long, do you?"

"Please, sergeant," I begged him, "couldn't I just stay inside for this once? They'd never miss me at rifle inspection. I'd be very quiet and nobody would ever know."

He ignored the request. "Try hard to remember, private, these few simple things. When the officer reaches the man next to you, open the rifle. When he grabs your gun, don't hang onto it or you'll have a bellyache for two weeks. When he throws it back to you, don't catch it with your chin. And when you get it back, snap the trigger. And heaven help you if you ball this thing up!"

The forces of Destiny placed me second in the front rank at inspection. We stood at attention for three minutes before the inspecting officer approached. For seconds after we brought our rifles up for inspection, a fly which seemed to be a little larger than a June bug landed on my forehead. The sergeant shot a warning glance across my bow and I decided to humor the fly. It would go away soon, I told myself, although I knew it wouldn't.

The inspecting officer still had not

year. Unless school enrollment is down considerably, over crowded classrooms are necessarily the result.

We have set our attendance goal for the coming year at 95 per cent. This means that a pupil cannot be absent more than one day each school month in order to meet this standard. Please keep in mind too that if a child enters school and then drops out after attending a few months, the effect is the same as non-attendance. Teacher allotment is based on average daily attendance of pupils in membership, not enrollment.

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The proper time to cut corn or sorghum for silage, according to the specialist, is when it contains the maximum amount of feed nutrients and at the same time enough moisture to make it pack well in the silo. Under the exceptionally dry conditions prevailing this summer, growers have been forced to add water in putting in their silage.

With corn, the grain should be denting and the shuck slightly yellow, when the crop is ready for the silo, Arey advises. This stage of maturity is reached about a week to ten days before the corn is ready to cut and shock. Sorghum should not be cut until the seed in the head are firm.

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## State Wood Pulp Becomes "Armor" For Deadly 105's

Wood pulp from North Carolina is playing a vital role in supplying the raw material for essential war items.

As an instance of what North Carolina wood pulp can contribute to national armament, 73 million of the paper "suits of armor" encasing the 105 mm. shells used with such deadly effect against the enemy in Africa could be obtained from the 179 thousand tons of the material produced annually, according to estimates approved by the American Paper and Pulp Association.

The slim-waisted 105 mm. shells were used to reduce enemy emplacements in Tunisia to rubble, stop infantry attacks and knock out the Panzer MVI tanks, regarded by the Nazis as one of the most invincible weapons, dispatches from the front stated.

The technique of developing mass production of the paper containers which guard the 105's until they go into action from the mouths of long-nosed howitzers originated in peacetime food packages, such as cartons commonly used for cocoa, salt and other products.

## Lived Modestly, But Had \$400,000

**TOPEKA, Kan.**—Fletcher Hayward, retired photographer, lived in a modest frame house and shopped carefully. He sometimes pointed out to neighbors the savings a cautious shopper might make.

An appraisal of his estate has disclosed he had more than \$400,000, most in gilt-edged securities.

The Doctor's five-year-old girl answered the doorbell:  
 Caller—Where is your daddy?  
 Little Girl—Oh, Daddy is out on an O. B. case.  
 Caller—What's an O. B. case?  
 Little Girl—Oh, that's where Daddy goes out and stays all night.

**School Attendance**  
 By M. H. Bowles  
 District Superintendent

The 1943-44 school term opened Monday, August 30th. In spite of the difficulties of operation imposed by present world conditions we hope to have, and can have with the cooperation and interest of school patrons, a successful school year.

Regular attendance is the key to the success of the individual pupil and the school as a whole. Pupils who are irregular in attendance soon lose interest in their school work; it is impossible for them to "keep up" with the class as a whole and they soon develop a feeling of inferiority—a feeling that they can't accomplish as much as the other members of the class. Every child wants to feel that he is identified with others of his age and size; one big "gang" so to speak. If for any reason he feels that he is an outsider his first reaction, in the case of school, is to quit.

School promotion and attendance are closely associated. It is the policy of this school district to promote a child if there is any hope that he is qualified to do the work of the next higher grade. However, if a child has not been in school it is impossible for him to have mastered the basic skills so that continued progress may be realized in the next higher grade. The school has only two choices: either retain the child in the lower grade or lower the standard of work of the majority of his class in the next higher grade that he may be able to do the work assigned.

School organization and attendance are also closely related. The State School Commission allots teachers to the school district on the basis of average daily attendance, using the following formula: six teachers for the first one hundred eight in average daily attendance, and one teacher for each thirty-six in average daily attendance thereafter. To illustrate: A classroom assigned 40 pupils must maintain an average of at least 90 percent to meet this organization requirement. If the average daily attendance is less than 90 percent then more than 40 pupils have to be assigned to the classroom as the number of teachers allotted by the State is reduced. The result is over crowded conditions in many classrooms for the first half of the school year. The majority of pupils are again hampered in their progress by those who fail to attend school regularly. The State allots this district 4 less teachers this year than we had last

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**School Attendance**  
 By M. H. Bowles  
 District Superintendent

The 1943-44 school term opened Monday, August 30th. In spite of the difficulties of operation imposed by present world conditions we hope to have, and can have with the cooperation and interest of school patrons, a successful school year.

Regular attendance is the key to the success of the individual pupil and the school as a whole. Pupils who are irregular in attendance soon lose interest in their school work; it is impossible for them to "keep up" with the class as a whole and they soon develop a feeling of inferiority—a feeling that they can't accomplish as much as the other members of the class. Every child wants to feel that he is identified with others of his age and size; one big "gang" so to speak. If for any reason he feels that he is an outsider his first reaction, in the case of school, is to quit.

School promotion and attendance are closely associated. It is the policy of this school district to promote a child if there is any hope that he is qualified to do the work of the next higher grade. However, if a child has not been in school it is impossible for him to have mastered the basic skills so that continued progress may be realized in the next higher grade. The school has only two choices: either retain the child in the lower grade or lower the standard of work of the majority of his class in the next higher grade that he may be able to do the work assigned.

School organization and attendance are also closely related. The State School Commission allots teachers to the school district on the basis of average daily attendance, using the following formula: six teachers for the first one hundred eight in average daily attendance, and one teacher for each thirty-six in average daily attendance thereafter. To illustrate: A classroom assigned 40 pupils must maintain an average of at least 90 percent to meet this organization requirement. If the average daily attendance is less than 90 percent then more than 40 pupils have to be assigned to the classroom as the number of teachers allotted by the State is reduced. The result is over crowded conditions in many classrooms for the first half of the school year. The majority of pupils are again hampered in their progress by those who fail to attend school regularly. The State allots this district 4 less teachers this year than we had last

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**Lake Logan News**  
 Corporal Horace Singleton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Singleton, of East Fork township, is spending a 15-day furlough with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Singleton have four sons in the armed forces.

Mrs. Bige Wild and daughter, Mrs. Bill Tucker, and baby, Billy, of Newport News, Tenn., spent the past week at Lake Logan with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Miller.

Mrs. Tester Lovelace, of Newport News, Va., visited her mother at Lake Logan recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Green, of Waynesville, route 2, had as their guests Sunday Mrs. Jim Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pace, Mrs. Bige Wild and Mrs. Bill Tucker, of Lake Logan.

**Silage Furnishes Economical Feed**  
 Silage furnishes one of the best and most economical home-grown roughages for cattle and takes the place of green grass during the critical winter feeding period, says John A. Arey, Extension dairyman at N. C. State College.

Silage is economical because a large quantity of the feed can be grown on a limited acreage with a comparatively small amount of labor and because only small loss is sustained during the harvesting and feeding operations.

If all of the silage is not fed during the winter months, it can be used during the dry periods in summer as a valuable supplement to grazing. Arey says that silage is a very necessary feed for dairy cows since it is a succulent and palatable feed, and it also finds a place in the feeding program of producers of beef cattle.

The proper time to cut corn or sorghum for silage, according to the specialist, is when it contains the maximum amount of feed nutrients and at the same time enough moisture to make it pack well in the silo. Under the exceptionally dry conditions prevailing this summer, growers have been forced to add water in putting in their silage.

With corn, the grain should be denting and the shuck slightly yellow, when the crop is ready for the silo, Arey advises. This stage of maturity is reached about a week to ten days before the corn is ready to cut and shock. Sorghum should not be cut until the seed in the head are firm.

**Fines Creek News**  
 By MRS. D. N. RATHBONE

Carl Story and his Rambling Mountaineers made their appearance at the Fines Creek school last Wednesday night. The event was sponsored by the P. T. A. The benefits received will go toward financing the lunch room.

Eseo Justice, of Sevierville, Tenn., is visiting with his aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Caldwell at their home here.

Miss Lorena McCrary, who holds a position in Dayton, Ohio, has returned to her work after spending a weeks vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. B. McCrary.

"Uncle" Jimmy Ledford, one of upper Fines Creek's oldest citizens, passed away at the age of 86 at the home of his son, Cordell Ledford, last Tuesday, after a long illness. Funeral services were held at the Pine Grove Methodist church cemetery.

He is survived by four sons, Cordell, Wiley, Newton and Tommie Ledford and one daughter, Mrs. T. C. Ledford and several grandchildren all of Fines Creek.

Mrs. Frank Rathbone of Newport News, is visiting her husband's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Rathbone and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Rathbone.

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