

They're in the Army Now

Families Say Farewell to Men of the 29th

By MARY COOKE
Advertiser Staff Writer

The Oahu troops, dressed in green fatigue uniforms and helmets, stood at attention on Kuroda Field at Fort DeRussy yesterday morning. Flanking the parade ground in a wide arc were the wives, parents and children, the sisters, brothers, grandparents and cousins of the men of the 29th Infantry Brigade. They had come to say goodbye to their men as they entered active service in the United States Army. From the reviewing stand, Maj. Gen. Benjamin J. Webster commended them on their "ready acceptance of the obligation to serve when called."

Mayor Neal Blaisdell told

them, "Our aloha carries the deeper meaning of personal concern and our prayers . . . when once again, the people of Hawaii are brought close to the front lines of our national commitment."

And Gov. John A. Burns addressed the "citizen soldiers of the 29th and 100th Infantry Battalion" and spoke of . . . "your quiet devotion to your country."

"You are again called to the colors, and you go," he said.

When the speeches ended, four Air National Guard F-102 planes passed in formation and helicopters flew in low over the troops dropping masses of vanda orchid blossoms which fluttered like purple confetti and set-

men with our daily prayers and by the way we conduct ourselves at home," he said.

The families stood together as long as they could. There wasn't much they could say, and it was hard to talk. Tears stood in the eyes of many of the women. Some of the children cried quietly and held on to the thick, heavy material of their fathers' uniforms. The men were quiet, serious.

The order came to board the trucks, the band played "Aloha Oe" again, then came the last embraces, the last goodbyes.

When the trucks pulled out, the families slowly went their ways. Their men were in the Army now.

Out at Schofield, the 45 men who had come from Molokai, under the command of Capt. Benjamin Manuel, were already breaking out rations and making their bunks. They had come in on early flights and were trucked directly to Schofield while the farewell ceremony for the Oahu men was being held at Ft. DeRussy.

In front of their quadrangle, a huge box held masses of fragrant leis which the people of Molokai had given their men at a farewell luau in their honor the night before.

Shortly, the convoy of trucks arrived from Honolulu. The men jumped off them, shouldered their duffel bags and carried them up outside stairways to the second and third floor levels of their barracks. Their first job: to make up their bunks with the bedding that was issued to them. After that, it was chow time.

For the rest of the day, the same scene was repeated



Hawaii National Guard Photos

1st Lt. Alfredo Torco of Kaneohe holds sister, Misty Lum, and says goodbye to his mother, Mrs. George Lum, at Ft. DeRussy. In civilian life, Lieutenant Torco was a policeman.

ed in three quadrangles at Schofield as units from Maui, Kauai and Hawaii and the Mainland arrived. It was a man's world, set up for the serious business of intensive military training. But, being in Hawaii, there were still the bright, sweet flower leis hung over lockers and bed frames throughout the barracks — tokens of the love and affection that went with the island boys when they left their homes.



Vickie Judd, daughter of Air National Guard executive officer Col. Walter F. Judd and Mrs. Judd, presents red carnation lei to Brig. Gen. Frederick A. Schaefer III, commander of 29th Infantry Brigade.

Mrs. George Lum, at Ft. DeRussy. In civilian life, Lieutenant Torco was a policeman.

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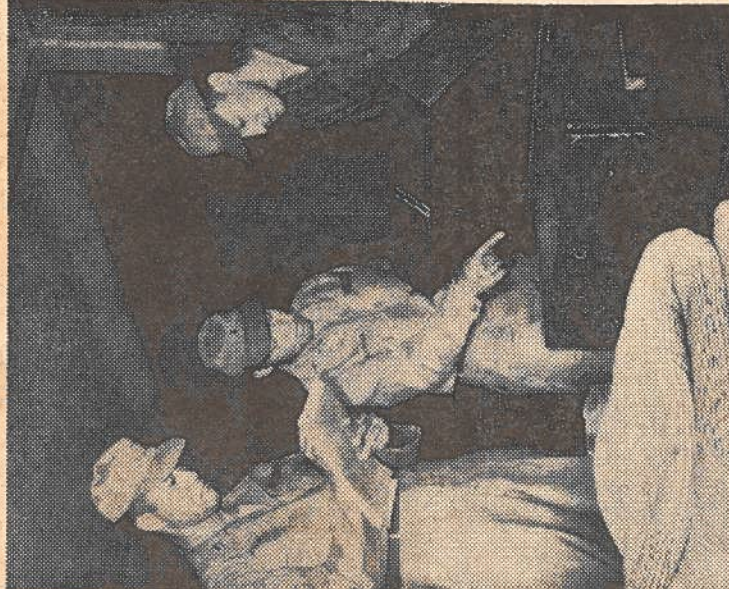
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Capt. Benjamin Manuel checks supplies with Lt. Michael Mangca and Sp. 4 Clarence Loo. All arrived with The Molokai unit yesterday.



Molokai men fall to and make bunks at Schofield Barracks. From left, Pfc. Rufo Villa, Sgt. Riley Naumu and Pfc. James Paleka.