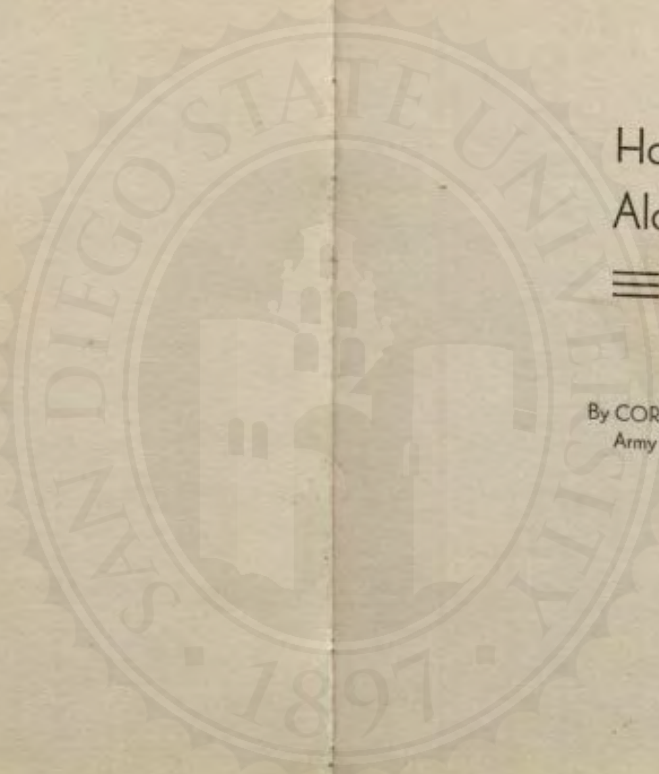


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How To Get Along In The Service

CORPORAL F. W. HOLBEIN
ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES



How To Get
Along In The
≡ Service ≡

By CORPORAL F. W. HOLBEIN
Army of the United States

Handset and printed by the boys of the
PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL PRINT SHOP
Plainfield, New Jersey



Foreword

The Land Service Division of the Victory Corps of Plainfield High School recently invited Corporal F. W. Holbein to speak to the prospective inductees of the school on "How to Get Along in the Service." His remarks were so helpful that this brochure has been prepared for distribution to the students who will soon become members of the armed forces. It is hoped that this information will assist these young men in their transition from school to Service.

Acknowledgment of appreciation is given to Corporal Holbein, the author; Mr. Meyer Frischling, instructor of printing and leader of the Land Service Division; and the many students of Plainfield High School who have made this brochure available to those who will soon be called into Service.

WALDRO J. KINDIG, Principal

The information contained herein has been approved by the War Department for publication.

*May 19, 1943
Plainfield High School
Plainfield, New Jersey*

How To Get Along In The Service



VICTORY for the United Nations cause depends on you. Since you want to contribute your share in the most effective manner as quickly as possible, the brief suggestions that follow will, it is hoped, help you to make a satisfactory adjustment in the Armed Services whether in the Army, the Navy, the Coast Guard or the Marines. Any views herein expressed are the private views of the author and do not reflect the views or policies of the War Department or any subdivision thereof.

HOW TO GET ALONG IN THE SERVICE

I. WHAT WILL MY FIRST CONTACT BE WITH THE SERVICE?

1. Your first contact will be at the time you report for your physical examination. You should respond promptly to everything you are asked or are told to do.

2. Although you should not imagine that you have ailments, you should be sure to tell the examining physicians if you have defects or have had serious illnesses.

3. If you pass the physical examination, you will then be inducted (sworn in). However, you will be permitted to return to your home for one week before being sent to a reception center.

4. Remember that—if you go by bus or train with a group of selectees for the physical examination—you must return with the group unless you have, before getting on the bus or train, received permission to leave separately following the examination.

II. WHAT SHOULD I DO FOLLOWING MY INDUCTION?

1. If you have a commercial life insurance

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policy, decide on some provision for the payment of premiums. You may have members of your family assume them, you may sign a note with the insurance company for their payment later, or—after you get into the Service—you may arrange to have funds deducted monthly from your pay and sent directly to the insurance company.

2. Assume the responsibility, before you leave, for packing away your personal belongings in an orderly manner in a safe place. Clothing should be wrapped carefully and protected against moths and dampness.

3. Wear old clothes to the induction center. Paper, cord and free postage will be provided for you to mail them home.

4. Articles you will need to take with you or which you can purchase later at post exchanges, operated by the Services at all posts, camps and stations:

- Tooth paste
- Clothes brush
- Soap
- Shaving cream
- Shoe brushes and polish

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Extra articles which you are likely to need, in addition to those which will be supplied to you

- Handkerchiefs
- Underwear
- Socks
- Towels

Articles which will prove useful:

- A case for toilet articles
- Dress oxfords
- A small overnight bag or suit case

Note: It is advisable not to take a radio because of its weight; you can probably have one sent you later.

The Service will supply you with these things:

- All necessary clothing
- Razor
- Shaving brush
- Comb
- Toothbrush

5. Tell your family, before leaving, that you will write to them as soon as possible, but that if they do not hear from you for a week or two it will be because you will have little time for writing at the start and because the probability is that you will be doing considerable traveling

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from one place to another for a while. Tell them also that, in case of trouble at home—such as serious illness or death—which requires their getting in touch with you promptly, they should telegraph you at your last address, and they should *also* go to their local Red Cross and have them telegraph the Red Cross at the camp from which they last heard from you. It is well for you to know, too, that you can go to the Field Director of the Red Cross at your camp in case you need to get in touch quickly with your home or in case you need special assistance of any kind.

III. WHAT IS THE PROCESSING LIKE ?

1. The first few days at the reception center are rugged; get sufficient sleep before you leave home so that you can come in the best possible condition.

2. You'll receive your initial immunization shots. These do not usually hurt; the few fellows who "pass out" from them do so largely through fear. If you fear them, do not look at the needle.

3. Your clothing and barrack bags in which to carry your belongings will be issued to you.

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4. Several tests, designed to place you in the spot in the Service where you can contribute most, will be given to you. Chief among these will be the General Classification Test:

- a). This is similar to the IQ tests that you've had in school.
- b). Questions in it cover abilities in vocabulary, arithmetic, and perception.
- c). Do as much of the test as you can in the time allotted. If you get "stuck" on a question, skip it and go on.
- d). Approach this test calmly and with no anxiety.

5. Following the testing, you will be interviewed by a Classification man. Tell him your schooling, hobbies, work experiences, special abilities, and the job to which you would like to be assigned. Don't be too disappointed, however, if you don't get what you ask for; you can request a change in classification later if you are dissatisfied.

6. You will be given an opportunity to take out a government life insurance policy (which you should do) and also to arrange for an

allotment from your salary if members of your family are dependent upon you.

7. Although the food may appear strange to you at first, meals are wholesome and well-planned.

IV. WHAT HAPPENS TO ME AFTER THE PROCESSING IS COMPLETED?

1. After a few days at the reception center you will be shipped for your basic training. If you know when or where you're being sent—do not phone, write or tell anyone. Also, do not send cards from station stops along the way. *These precautions are for security reasons and for your own protection.*

2. During the basic training you will receive drilling, calisthenics, lectures and work with guns.

3. You will also be given additional tests and further, more refined, classification.

4. Put forth honest effort in everything you are taught and in every responsibility given you. If at times your training becomes monotonous, remember that your advancement in the Service,

as well as your future safety—as shown by actual combat experience—depends upon a conscientious response toward it on your part. President Wilkins of Oberlin College says: "Long and intensive training is absolutely necessary, for modern combat is a very difficult affair, requiring expert precision. Merely to be present, untrained, upon a battlefield, would hamper rather than advance the cause."

5. While you are in the Service you will have many opportunities to learn—through travel, through discussion with your comrades, through reading in your spare time. You can also take correspondence courses, practically free, through the Armed Forces Institute.

6. At the conclusion of the basic training you may be sent to a school for further training, or—especially if you possess some specialized mechanical skill—you may be sent directly to a post, camp or station.

V. HOW MAY I ADJUST MYSELF TO MY NEW EXPERIENCE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE?

1. Uniforms—particularly the fatigue suits—

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make everyone look pretty much alike. You'll have to stand on your own feet, so the first thing to do is to forget that you were a "big shot" back in your high school.

2. Life in the Service requires a close "rubbing of shoulders" and a "give and take" to which you may not be accustomed. You can't afford to be self-centered. If group life is to be happy for you, you must be willing to do your share of all work, to hold your temper under all provocations, to share the contents of boxes from home, and—above all—not to boast. You'll find many opportunities, too, to help the fellows with whom you live.

3. Take a pleasant, willing attitude. If your attitude is one of personal resentment toward those in authority over you, you'll only have to pay for it in the end.

4. Cultivate the many opportunities for fine lasting friendships with congenial fellows.

5. Look for the humor in situations which arise.

6. Abide by all rules and regulations. Remember that they're made for your well-being.

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7. Avoid fear. Most Sergeants, for instance, are fine fellows when you get to know them. Take things as they come; don't worry about them before they happen.

8. Although you may not feel entirely happy for a while because, naturally, you'll miss your home ties, and because you may feel that you don't count as an individual, you'll come through all right if you'll "keep your chin up" for a few weeks. The whole experience will be a test of your strength of character.

VI. HOW CAN I PRESERVE MY HIGHEST MORALE?

1. Try to maintain your personal standards in regard to adequate sleep, reasonable cleanliness, personal habits, and choice of friends. You'll find that it won't be too difficult to do this.

2. But be broad-minded; don't condemn when you see or hear things of which you may not approve.

3. Keep your clothing in good condition. If it doesn't fit, have it altered on your own responsibility.

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4. Remember that you have a family and friends who care very much for you. Since they are also making sacrifices, they deserve your consideration. Regular letters, in which you tell especially the things which you do in your off-duty hours, will be much appreciated by them and will help to lessen your own feeling of strangeness.

5. Have a firm conviction about the importance of what we are fighting for: to protect and preserve our own nation; to eliminate persecution and hatred in the world; and to provide greater freedom and security for everyone.

