

## **The Giddings News**

July 11, 1941

### **SOLDIERS HERE**

Sixteen hundred soldiers arrived in Giddings Tuesday afternoon from Camp Hulen (Palacios) for practice maneuvers until July 18. They comprise the 203rd CAAA (Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft) under Col. Ray E. Watson. They are Missouri National Guards and are from Springfield, Joplin and nearby towns. Regimental headquarters are established one-half a mile east of Giddings on the highway.

The regiments are stationed in two circles around Giddings, one ring is 6 miles around the town, the other is 10 miles from town. On the 6-mile ring there are six stations and on the 10-mile ring there are ten stations. All stations are on or near public roads where there is timber for concealing the trucks. Permission of land owners was obtained some weeks ago for entrance to the premises. Each station has two trucks for equipment and machinery. Only practice in throwing search lights on airplanes approaching Giddings will be done. As an airplane approaches town, the equipment spots the plane, its direction, distance, height, speed, and also wind direction and velocity. All these calculations are done by machinery. The men are capable of making the calculations, but machine calculations are always accurate and more speedy.

Search light regiments are stationed near town and the information gained by the posts six and ten miles out is sent to these batteries of searchlights and the lights are trained on the airplane as it approaches town. Airplanes are easily struck by projectiles fired in accordance with calculations made at outlying posts because planes do not zig-zag much and there dives and climbs are generally caught by the machinery. The mathematical precision of the instruments make this possible. There are several batteries of automatic weapons, but no firing will be done.

There is a 28-piece regimental band accompanying the troops and Maj. Cliff Titus who called on the Editor, stated that they desire to give the citizens a free band concert while here.