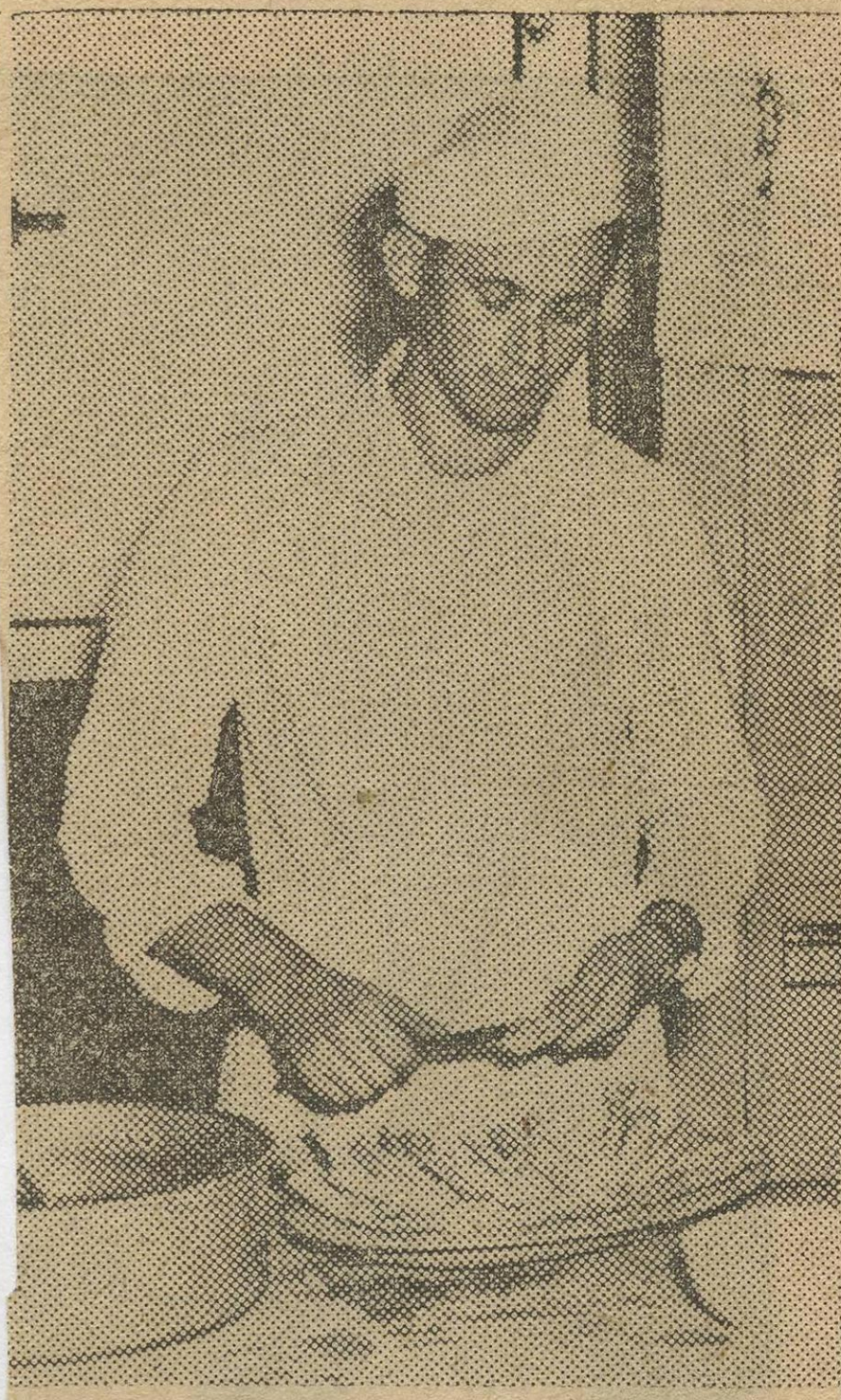


Oct 4-1951



Helps —Pvt. Norman Soncarty, Potlatch, assists members of the general's mess staff in preparation of the noon meal at the 31st division's officers' mess at Fort Jackson, S. C. Private Soncarty volunteered for a full-time job which often calls for 16 hours of continuous labor.

Potlatch Man Is Mess Helper

Working on kitchen detail isn't as bad as a lot of people think—at least not for Pvt. Norman Soncarty, Potlatch, who works in the 31st (Dixie) division's officer's mess at Fort Jackson, S. C.

As a matter of fact, Private Soncarty volunteered for the fulltime job.

The work itself isn't easy. Private Somcarty, trained in cooking and baking, must be on his toes when it comes to preparation of meals. The hours are long—sometimes 16 hours a day—and the men take turns with other members of the staff getting up at 3 in the morning to fire the stoves.

The compensations, however, are many. The private works one day and is off the next. He is excused from all other duties and receives extra pay for his work.

The mess, called the "general's mess", because the division commander, Maj. Gen. A. G. Paxton, and the assistant division commander, Brig. Gen. Eugene W. Ridings, eat there, is unlike the usual army mess hall in that it is provided with various items, such as drapes, artificial flowers, table cloths and plates instead of trays. All of these things, however, are paid for by the officers themselves, who pay for their meals.