

INFORMATION SECTION
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT LEWIS
FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FL-704-59

MC GEE DEPARTS

FORT LEWIS, June 9--

WALKING THE LINE--Brig. Gen. John H. McGee, Assistant 4th Infantry Division commander, says final goodbyes to Fort Lewis command and staff officers before leaving post for new assignment Monday. Maj. Gen. Louis W. Truman, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Lewis commanding general, walks with Gen. McGee. Fort Lewis soldiers paid tribute to Gen. McGee with honor guard Monday. Gen. McGee will take over the Antilles Command of the U.S. Army in the Caribbean in July.

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(U.S. ARMY PHOTO)



Sublimity. (over)

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SGT THIELSEN

FORT LEWIS, June 11--Anyone starting an argument with MSgt. Fred D. Thielsen on family heritage had better build a pretty substantial case before spouting off.

The slim 44-year-old sergeant, who was recently assigned as military advisor to the Nevada National Guard, boasts a great-great-grandmother who founded Pacific University and a great-grandfather who had a mountain named after him.

Great-great-grandmother Tabatha Moffet Brown is credited with establishing a school at Forrest Grove, Ore., 25 miles west of Portland in 1845. The small log cabin structure later became known as Taulatin Academy and in the early 1900's it was renamed Pacific University. School officials claim it is the oldest school west of the Mississippi.

Today the University has an enrollment of over 700 students, and they affectionally refer to the sturdy, pioneering founder as "Tabby". Perhaps the school's most distinguished graduate was Harvey S. Scott who received his diploma in 1863. He was editor of the Portland Oregonian for nearly half a century and is still widely revered in journalistic circles.

Mount Thielsen was monikered after great-grandfather Henry

(MORE)

PG.2^u-- sgt thielsen

B. Thielsen. It towers 9178 feet and overlooks the Crater Lake National Park in the southwestern part of the state.

The elder Thielsen was the chief engineer on the construction of the Southern Pacific railroad through Oregon in the days when laborers carried a sledge hammer in one hand and a rifle in the other--to ward off marauding Redskins. He was also consultant engineer for the Union Pacific railroad which bridged the continent from Omaha, Neb. to Portland.

During his 21 years in the Army, Sgt. Thielsen has been adding fresh adventures and prestige to the family tree. He was one of the members of the first air warning units established by the U.S. Army in December 1939 in the Panama Canal Zone.

In December 1941, just prior to the outbreak of World War II, while on duty in Alaska with the 8th Signal Company he helped establish an air warning code system for the Army Air Corps at Ladd Field.

During the war he served in the Pacific Theater. From October 1951 to December 1952 he was Sergeant Major of the Military Intelligence Service Group in the Far East. He had been at Fort Lewis since 1953 and served as Sergeant Major of the U. S. Army Personnel Center and as Chief Clerk of Post Special Services.

He comes from Sublimity, Ore. and he and his wife, Wanda, have an eight-year-old daughter, Pamela.

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