Texas Ag of Twelfth Man Fame Serving Uncle Sam

COLLEGE STATION, Texas, July 14 (AP).—Another former Texas Aggie athlete great has gained prominence in the American war effort.

Major E. King Gill, who Jan. 2, 1922, created the famed tradition of the twelfth man of Aggieland, has been appointed commanding officer and flight surgeon at the new basic flying school at Greenville.

Football fans of the Southwest know the entire Texas A. & M. Cadet Corps stands throughout all football games, but not many know the reason why.

It was Jan. 2, 1922, that A. & M. played the famed Praying Colonels of Centre College at Dallas. The Aggies became sorely pressed for players as this and that star went out with injuries.

D. X. Bible, now coach at Texas, was coach of the Aggies at that time. Bible realized that one more injury would leave him without another backfield player to send into the game. However, he remembered that before the contest started, Gill, who had not made the trip with the squad but came along with the cadet corps, told him he would be in the stands if needed.

Gill had gone out for football, but lacked the experience and ability to play on the varsity.

Bible sent for him and told him to suit out. Gill responded. Available records fail to disclose that he played in the game, which A. & M. finally won, 22 to 14, in a major upset.

Records do show that Gill later won two football letters, two in basketball and three in baseball, before he rounded out his career as one of the all-time greats of A. & M. athletics.

Since the day Gill left the stands to take his place on the gridiron if needed, the Aggies have stood at all football games, ready to go into the line-up when called upon. Thus was created the twelfth man tradition of Aggieland.