

## LOTS OF MAIL

HOSPITAL POST OFFICE HANDLES 5,000 LETTERS A DAY.

Five thousand letters come and go through the base hospital post office a day, when there is an ordinary run of mail traffic in the camp.

There are nearly always seven sacks of mail handled in the transactions between the hospital post office and the main office down in the camp. These sacks hold about ten pounds of mail each. As a result the hospital office is in the 750 pound class, as that is the daily weight cared for, and is far above many of the small town offices of the country.

The little town aspect of the hospital office is witnessed twice each day when the representatives of the many wards gather in the receiving ward, about the post office window, to await their allotments of incoming mail. Each ward appoints a convalescent patient to go for the mail. The patient, dressed in his characteristic garb of pajamas and robe, generally seeks the post office several minutes before time for the mail to be put up. The result is a merry gathering near the postoffice door while Sergeant Jenkins and his crew sorts the newly received mail.

The two mail deliveries are received at 9 o'clock in the morning and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It requires about a half hour for the three postal clerks to distribute the letters and packages to their proper sections.

The mail is scattered into many pigeon holes and sacks. There is a section of shelving for each one of the hospital wards. There are sacks awaiting the deliveries for the nurses' home, officers' ward and the barracks row.

Every army regiment carries its own post office equipment and mail clerks but the hospital office is much more complete than any departmental office. At the present the base hospital postoffice is receiving nearly half the mail of the entire camp.

## Work Systematized.

Sergeant Ellis L. Jenkins, in charge of the office, has systematized the work of the three men who operate the branch post office. Each one performs a part of the effort of keeping track of all the patients in the hospital as well as the comings and goings of medical units which halt here for a time.

Sergeant Jenkins has been the chief postal clerk since he came to the base hospital, from Fort Ethan Allen, last October. His assistants are Privates Ira Hart and Frank Gavagan. Hart is the only member of the force who was a post office employe in civilian life. He was a mail carrier at Hartford, Conn. Sergeant Jenkins was formerly a messenger for the Adams Express Company and Gavagan was an insurance salesman.

"Passing the buck" is a notable army sport in every branch of service and the base hospital post office claims to be the court of refuge for Camp Greene. Whenever a soldier cannot be located in camp and the central post master is distracted as to the meaning of the address it is believed that he sends the letter out for the hospital postal clerks to worry over. There are dozens of misfit addresses in each mail. In some cases the letters are addressed to different camps. Sometimes half the name is gone.

Every now and then a patient, who has been in the hospital long enough to have spent his army pay, sends a stampless letter. There are many of them each day. In most cases he neglects to give a return address. Those are the chances for postmaster Jenkins to "pass the buck" and he sends the letters on for somebody else to trouble over.

## FATHER DIES.

Private Joseph Mathews, wardmaster in D 6, and whose home is in Dorchester, Mass., was granted a five-day extension to his furlough because of the death of his father.

## LAYING THE CLOTH



## FOR HER SERVICE STAR BOARDER.

All through New England and out into the western prairies this sort of preparation has been going on for several weeks. As our comrades came back from their furloughs they tell us about it. As the furlough season is in its midst, we think it especially timely for the benefit of those who have returned, and who live in the memory of such bits of cheer, and for those who are yet to journey home that we portray this idea of the welcome as crayoned by Private Bissell.

## LESS AND MORE.

The burdens of the officers and enlisted men of Base Hospital No. 54 have not been lightened by the order to lighten their material burdens. None of the men will be allowed to take barrack bags. The officers will be reduced to fifty pounds of bedding. Only one suit of clothes will be granted the enlisted men. The burden is to be carried on the back but it is the burden that is to be left behind that worries.

Major Eveth who has been ill for the past few days is now improving.

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