## Miss Dorothy Potter Writes Some Red Cross Experiences In Service

Miss Potter recently visited Mrs. Mary Aleshire, of Oak Knoll, Black Mountain, N. C. This letter will be run in installments each week. Watch for it-you will enjoy reading her experiences in the Red Cross with the service men of the U. S. Armed Forces Written exclusively for The Black Mountain News.

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to back your Doctor in this manner.

(Continued from last week) Patients from Cherbourg pre sented an entirely different rou passengers were loaded I'd start and see that he gets smokes." out with cigarettes and matches . . . market baskets filled with with your hands all done up. I'll

"Hey Red Cross watcha got?" that many in weeks."

matches They're awful hard to erans of months of fighting, oth-

"Thanks lady--I gotta pack Give 'em to somebody else."

into my basket) are the kind he through. Our Cherbourg patients smokes. I'll keep 'em for him fresh from such events, talked and

"Look lady-that renow over there can't understand anyone. He tine for me and all the detach was too near a shell when it exment personnel. As soon as al ploded. We'll tkae his cigarette:

"Hey bud . . . You over there take yours and you hollar when

ers were mere fledglings injured nurses and wardmen. minutes after going into combat But all were glad to get away

talked about what they had been grab for the sides of the litter. In I know from them. It is fun and seemed to relieve all of them. wasn't in the least disturbed, patient starts a scarf others in Each listened intently to his near Slowly they'd relax and then grin the ward will follow suit, and then neighbors and they in turn to as people ducked and scurried to I have to interest some patient in him. Subconsciously, I believe, get out of the way. These colored a knotted belt so that the supply they realized the value of the litter bearers had an outstanding of scarf yarn isn't depleted too 'blowing steam" and helped each basketball team and they were to soon. Then comes the necessity

exist. The patients had lost ev- ed with patients. They found Hooked rugs are introduced to offerything except articles tucked they could still play off the game set that, and so on, until I'm actaway in pockets of the uniform if they unloaded us by a certain ually out of everything just as they were wearing when the Ger- time. Those colored men literal- we dock. My once ample supplies mans started abruptly to hammer ly flew on winged heels and they go ashore as gifts to baby Mary, our lines. I never realized how cut their usual time by an hour. Sweetheart Sue, Mother, Dad and truly important the little posses- They played the game and won all the others. sions are. The men who had man- the championship.

all the patients. Crossing the or so most of them shelved their Channel the public address sys- disappointment because the daily tem piped hundreds of recordings ward and ship routine, coupled to the wards . . . everything . . . with a planned recreation prohillbilly, western, jive . . . the us- gram, made time pass quickly. Inual conglomeration that Amer-tentionally our route swung south- Farmer John Discusses Subjects

Great was the contrast between to Bermuda to provide easy seas the embarking at Cherbourg and and good weather. Patients, debarking in England. Patients stripped to the waist, daily ableft the St. Olaf reluctantly, vo- sorbed sunshine on the open decks. ciferously hoping they'd catch her When we arrived in the States the if they were Z.I.ed (sent to the vast majority had gained weight, Zone of the Interior-the United were relaxed and more normal States.) They were clean, rested, from plenty of sleep and goo living conditions. Even the litter fed and in good spirits.

We churned our lonely way cases presented suntanned faces across the Atlantic twice more going down the gangway to shore after completing our shuttle as- for they too had been out on the signment on the English Channel. decks for their share fo the sun's And we did bring back many pa- rays. tients whom we had carried to Patients from England were England. They were "old tim- definitely different from those we ers" aboard, staged a personal transported from Cherbourg. Difhome-coming and told all the new- ferent in that they had spent comers about the snip, personnel more time in hospitals, were aced being "in the know." On these no longer craved the primary planter, sections to be ground fer trips we also carried patients we comforts and needs. These men circumstances. In New York we ness and were calmer. They items fer "shop work" this win-Pulling out ahead of us the "We'll cern was to make time pass as than sum ov the rest ov us, an' I correct. We saw a number of long fingernails, of which they are in advance. When time cum to

A sergeant presented a vital fingers the patients are reluctant right along. problem in one ward. He was nas- to cut them off for they have be ty, viciously so, in all his remarks come an accepted badge of long to everyone. Two days before hospitalization. he had been on the troop transport Movies have always topped the mas Eve we docked there. Unin- trip we managed 157 shows, for in' the work on top ov him. jured and rescued he had gone on bed and ambulatory patients, usto the front and been wounded, ing three machines and 15 mov-His horror of the torpedoing and ies. ensuing events stuck with him- Judging from the use of our li- in' the plan that gits things done. and being transported home on an- brary there must be a large numother ship made it even more hor- ber of real and potential cowboys rible. Waking and sleeping he in the Army. Zane Grey's westrelived the impact of the torpedo, erners are read far more than any the explosion, his fighting to get others. In just two trips a new, his unit out (which he did except Zane Grey is "all beat up," dogfor one man), the survival in- eared nad limp. On the whole pastinct making everyone into a tients are avid readers and some screaming, terrified, fighting average better than a book a day maniac, and then finding himself while enroute home. in the water beside his buddy, Craft work is popular for the talking to him and seeing him men are proud to have completed suddenly go down.

something attractive, and are Another patient had been slight- mightily pleased to have that y wounded twice in Europe and same something to take home as a each time we brought him to Eng- gift. Often patients will loudly land to recuperate. The third proclaim their complete disintertime back to combat duty his in- est in crafts of any kind . . . nope jury was sufficiently serious to ... none of that stuff for them. send him to the States . . . and . . . Soon a couple in the ward are we provided him with transporta- whipping up scarfs, knotted belts, sewing and stuffing ani-

tion that time too. At one English port a company mals. Others admire the results of colored soldiers unloaded our and start. Soon our recalcitrant Cherbourg patients. These men friends find themselves doing handled as many as three, and some of that "stuff." sometimes four, hospital ships a Soldiers are ingenious and day. Rightfully they had the rep- seemignly can always make someutation of being the fastest and thing out of nothing, and, given smoothest group in the E.T.O. All some hing to work with, they deof us learned to duck into door- velope most attractive items. Our ways when we saw a pair bringing trip-ly craft exhibit always brings a patient down a passageway forth excellent handwork . . These men had a speedy, running hooked rugs with original designs; walk (taking all the movement in enlarged arm patches worked in their hips) that transported pa- needlepoint; sailing ship models; tients rapidly with nary a jolt. It square knotted belts, purses and was great fun watching patients coasters; plexiglass frames, pendas they suddenly realized the speed ants and pins; wool purses with at which they were being moved, plexiglass monograms. There Disbelief appeared first on their seems no end to the things the

faces and with whatever number men can do and improvise, and I, of hands they could use they'd who teach crafts, have learned all

"States music" was the cry of to exceed 12 knots. Within a day a perfect belt to take o this wife. (Continued next week) Fence Row Philosophy

of Decidedly Human Interest ward by the Azores and then west

'Long about the first ov the year Mandy an' me slipped over to one ov the nabers' homes one evenin' for a friendly little visit. We found the man at hiz desk bizzy az a bee plannin' hiz work fer the next few months. It wuz cold an stormin' outside, but there in hiz comfortable home he wuz layin' hiz plans so that when time come that he could work outside he'd have everything in shape to git right at the job and git everything

his work planned out jist as carefully az this an' he was always docking he answered our unspok- Seeing two movies a day would ahead ov his work, whereas a lot en wonderment by explaining that not be an excess to any patient, of hiz nabers seemed to be mostly behind · az he sed, he liked to be sunk off Cherbourg the Christ list of favorite recreation. One on top oy the work insted oy hav-

interfering wit hthe use of their

I guess it's that way with most things, not jist in farmin'. It's plannin' the work an' then work-Your old neighbor,

SEWING

ing of all kinds. We turn your old shirt collars and put in Trouser

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Telling of the night- a minute or so they'd realize there necessary to direct craft trends. experiences was no jolting and their balance I have found that as soon as one play off the championship game of preventing the same thing from Personal possessions just didn't one evening when we docked load- happening to the tying cord.

One-armed patients are anxious aged to retain a toothbrush or Our men homeward bound have to keep busy. With a bit of derazor were the envy of everyone a tremendous, relentless urge, termination and patience they Toothbrushes, after cigarettes, like the lemmings of Norway in learn to do the scarfs on boards. were the first things to be re- their yearly trek which takes them One one-armed patient was par-Stopping at each bed I managed quested, then came shaving gear, over cliffs and into the sea. They ticularly intrigued with a knotted "Boy! . . . just look at those Stopping at each bed I managed quested, then came snaving gear. Over thirs and into the sea. They obtain in the sea. They obtain it is Each one presented a series of became a toothsome, shiny-vis- ble. Our disabled soldiers in Eng- his wife. Two hands are almost unique experiences culminating in aged group. Those who could land, knowing they were going essential in tying the knots but he "Can I have a couple books of being wounded. Some were vet- hobble took showers, and bed pa- home, dreamed and hoped for a puttered around until he found a Little hoarded articles came majority had come to the E. T. O. the belt to the bottom of the bunk, aboard tucked in pockets, paper by ships and a return trip by the made the knot with one hand and bags or simply held in their own- same means of transportation did then tied one strand to his big is in the latrine. Those (pointing fulness of the German broak-I to be able to give the men ditty were disgruntled just a bit when then fasten the knot by pulling bags which the Red Cross volun- they came aboard our ship, and with his hand and foot. It was teers back home have been mak- their dispositions didn't improve tedious at first but he mastered ing by the hundreds of thousands. when they learned we 'raveled not it. When it was completed he had

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He had a list ov things to do on things, ov course, that could be and routine. They greatly enjoy- customed to medical routine and tinkerin' to be done on the corn the mowin' machine an' the harnad known under quite different had lost much of their battle tense | vester, an' quite a bunch of sich were docked next to a transport. knew of recreation programs and ter. I've sort ov noticed that this Many of the soldiers chatted over what to ask of Red Cross and feller always seemed to git along the railing with our personnel Special Service. Their chief con- with his work somewhat better be seeing you" they shouted across rapidly as possible by keeping gess I found out part of the reathe widening band fo water had busy. Most longtime patients are son. He had his work planned an' an ironic significance. They were easily identified by their very "laid out" az he had, sum time them. They were among our pa- very proud. Despite the talons plant er harvest all the machinery

FARMER JOHN.

MRS. J. H. KELLY Black Mountain, N. C.

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