

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.

(Continued from last week) Patients from Cherbourg presented an entirely different routine for me and all the detach ment personnel.

O. K. "Look lady—that renow over there can't understand anyone. He was too near a shell when it exploded.

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talked about what they had been through. Telling of the nightmares and ghasly experiences seemed to relieve all of them.

Personal possessions just didn't exist. The patients had lost everything except articles tucked away in pockets of the uniform they were wearing when the Germans started abruptly to hammer our lines.

Little hoarded articles came aboard tucked in pockets, paper bags or simply held in their owners hands. Grateful indeed was I to be able to give the men ditzy bags which the Red Cross volunteers back home have been making by the hundreds of thousands.

Great was the contrast between the embarking at Cherbourg and debarking in England. Patients left the St. Olaf reluctantly, vociferously hoping they'd catch her if they were Z.Led (sent to the Zone of the Interior—the United States.)

We churned our lonely way across the Atlantic twice more after completing our shuttle assignment on the English Channel. And we did bring back many patients whom we had carried to England. They were "old timers" aboard, staged a personal home-coming and told all the newcomers about the snip, personnel and routine.

A sergeant presented a vital problem in one ward. He was nasty, viciously so, in all his remarks to everyone. Two days before docking he answered our unspoken wonderment by explaining that he had been on the troop transport sunk off Cherbourg the Christmas Eve we docked there.

Judging from the use of our library there must be a large number of real and potential cowboys in the Army. Zane Grey's westerners are read far more than any others. In just two trips a new Zane Grey is "all beat up," dog-eared and limp.

Another patient had been slightly wounded twice in Europe and each time we brought him to England to recuperate. The third time back to combat duty his injury was sufficiently serious to send him to the States . . . and . . . we provided him with transportation that time too.

At one English port a company of colored soldiers unloaded our Cherbourg patients. These men handled as many as three, and sometimes four, hospital ships a day. Rightfully they had the reputation of being the fastest and smoothest group in the E.T.O.

grab for the sides of the litter. In a minute or so they'd realize there was no jolting and their balance wasn't in the least disturbed. Slowly they'd relax and then grin as people ducked and scurried to get out of the way.

Our men homeward bound have a tremendous, relentless urge, like the lemmings of Norway in their yearly trek which takes them over cliffs and into the sea. They MUST get there as soon as possible. Our disabled soldiers in England, knowing they were going home, dreamed and hoped for a plane ride which would get them there in a matter of hours.

Patients from England were definitely different from those we transported from Cherbourg. Different in that they had spent more time in hospitals, were accustomed to medical routine and no longer craved the primary comforts and needs.

Seeing two movies a day would not be an excess to any patient. Movies have always topped the list of favorite recreation. One trip we managed 157 shows, for bed and ambulatory patients, using three machines and 15 movies.

Craft work is popular for the men are proud to have completed something attractive, and are mightily pleased to have that same something to take home as a gift. Often patients will loudly proclaim their complete disinterest in crafts of any kind . . . none . . . none of that stuff for them.

Soldiers are ingenious and seemignly can always make something out of nothing, and, given something to work with, they develop most attractive items. Our trip-ly craft exhibit always brings forth excellent handwork . . . hooked rugs with original designs; enlarged arm patches worked in needlepoint; sailing ship models; square knotted belts, purses and coasters; plexiglass frames, pendants and pins; wool purses with plexiglass monograms.

who teach crafts, have learned all I know from them. It is fun and necessary to direct craft trends. I have found that as soon as one patient starts a scarf others in the ward will follow suit, and then I have to interest some patient in a knotted belt so that the supply of scarf yarn isn't depleted too soon.

One-armed patients are anxious to keep busy. With a bit of determination and patience they learn to do the scarfs on boards. One one-armed patient was particularly intrigued with a knotted belt and wanted to make one for his wife. Two hands are almost essential in tying the knots but he puttered around until he found a solution.

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Fence Row Philosophy

Farmer John Discusses Subjects of Decidedly Human Interest

'Long about the first of the year Mandy an' me slipped over to one of the nabers' homes one evenin' for a friendly little visit. We found the man at hiz desk bizzy as a bee plannin' hiz work fer the next few months.

He had a list ov things to do on rainy days and bad weather; things, ov course, that could be done inside. There wuz a little tinkerin' to be done on the corn planter, sections to be ground fer the mowin' machine an' the harvester, an' quite a bunch of sich items fer "shop work" this winter.

But that wasn't all, he had all his work planned out just as carefully az this an' he was always ahead ov his work, whereas a lot of hiz nabers seemed to be mostly behind: az he sed, he liked to be on top ov the work insted ov havin' the work on top ov him.

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