February 15, 1945, marked the beginning of the fourth year since the activation of the 12th General Hospital for World War II. The occasion was celebrated by an open house at the Enlisted Men's Club. The officers sponsored a party which was attended by the commanding and executive officers and the chief nurses of the other hospitals in this area.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
(an editorial)

Morale is the most abused term of the war. We hear about "morale for the fighting troops", "morale for the home front", We never hear of "morale for the base sector".

We in the rear areas do not suffer the dangers of those on the front; we do not endure the hardships. We, however, do not experience the emotional surge that comes with victorious combat. The men who fights has the toughest job but he also has the best means of giving vent to his feelings. He works then off during battle. Between times, he swaggers and considers it his prerogative to stagger down the street, clog a bottle in hand, completely "big shot" as the natives say, but he wears the stamp of "respectability" which gives him the "right" to do these things. It may be the insignia of one or another infantry or armored division, or the wings of the Air Force, it may be the Expert Infantryman's Badge, or the ribbons of the flyer. We (con't on page 3)

REVISED ROTATION

REQUIREMENTS

RELEASED

The following changes in rotation eligibility have just been received and are being published for your information:

Personal to be rotated will be selected upon consideration of the following criteria of eligibility. (1) Conduct record, (2) Nature of duty performed, (3) Physical condition, (4) Length of continuous overseas service.

The following are not to be rotated. (1) Those with unfavorable disciplinary records, (2) Those eligible for discharge under current regulations, (3) Those not clearly qualified to hold their present or higher grade in their area or service, Fifteen (15) months continuous overseas service is the mandatory minimum for personnel with combat service; twenty-four (24) months for all other personnel.

Eligibility prescribed for temporary duty is the same as for rotation with the exception that nine (9) months continuous overseas service is the mandatory minimum for personnel with combat service and eighteen (18) months for all others. An individual not physically qualified for overseas duty is not eligible for return on temporary duty.
We who read have been wondering for quite some time—would it not be possible to have the bulletin board which is in the mess hall placed in a more convenient spot? It is now so inconveniently located that few can risk stopping to read it. If a man stops, he either holds up a whole line or risks dribbling his garbage down someone’s neck.

If the notices are important enough to be posted, they are important enough to be posted where they can be read. If we had one large bulletin board in the Detachment area there would be no need for the present custom of tacking notices all over the mess hall, inside and out. Heaven only knows how many more are tacked on various trees and latrines. We know they are for us to read, and we’ll read them, but we’re damned if we’ll spend all our spare time looking for them. There are much nicer things to look for.

Sincerely,

O. I. Joe.

(The official bulletin board that you are required to read daily is located in the Detachment Office. The one in the Mess Hall is for your convenience...Ed)
Religious Group Forms Chapter

Under the sponsorship of Chaplain Brels, the men of this unit organized a Service Men's Christian League. Each unit is a part of the worldwide League.

The purpose of the organization is to strengthen the soldier's faith and give men of all protestant denominations an opportunity to make and conduct their own meetings, dealing with questions of a Christian nature which are of immediate interest.

From the 14 charter members which formed the League, the attendance has increased to an average of 25, including both patients and enlisted men.

The services are held each Wednesday evening in the Chapel. The type of service varies from time to time as does the speaker. However, the theme of each service is on that of Christian Living.

S.M.C.L. is, as the name implies, a service by and for men in the armed forces of the U.S.A. It has a monthly publication known as "The Link", which is mailed to all chaplains.

JANUARY 16TH PLAYERS MAKE HIT WITH 12TH GENERAL

"Tell the boys that if they are ever in Hollywood - just look us up, mention 12th General Hospital, and we'll show them around the town." That's what the cast of "The Nite of January 16th" think about our outfit. Unanimous in their opinions, the players said they had never been treated more considerately than here. They were amazed at the completeness of the Enlisted Men's Club and at the tasty meal they ate at the detachment mess (luckily they hit the super anniversary dinner). But most of all, they were happy about the splendid audience reception to their play.

"The Nite of January 16th", a murder mystery with courtroom setting, was presented in 1941 on Broadway. There, as now, the jury was selected from the audience. The jury is free to deliver a verdict of guilty or not guilty. Usually on Broadway, and more often overseas, the defendant is found "not guilty". At the 12th, she was found to be "guilty".

(con'td on page 8)
CALIFORNIA - L'HERE HE COMES---

This letter from Jack Killelea was recently received by Pharmacist Ed Gardner. Jack, who was injured in a fall at Rome, was one of the oldest members of the 12th General Hospital.

Stark General Hospital, Charleston, S.C., January 8, 1945.

Dear Eddie,

Well, Ed, as you see by the heading, I've finally made it O.K. and man, was I glad to get here.

Ed, you would have laughed at me when they loaded me on the ship—I'd done it so much myself when we were in Naples and I never expected that I would be loaded on some day. I busted out laughing and I guess the guys who were carrying me thought I was nuts. The nurses on board were better than usual—they were beautiful, and I almost fell for one.

Eddie, you have no idea what a thrill is in store for you when you get here—the feeling you get when you come down the gangplank with the band playing and everyone shaking your hand. I couldn't help getting tears in my eyes and I wasn't alone. They loaded us into ambulances...at the gate a Red Cross girl shoved in some hot rolls and a Quart of Fresh Milk!!! I guess my eyes were round as silver dollars. I know just about how this will make you guys feel, but I think you'll want me to tell you the rest.

Well—we arrived at Stark which is laid out like Billings, only is much nicer, at about 11:30 A.M. I was just too dazed to say anything—you can imagine how I felt. The ward boy told us if we wanted to phone home to get right ahead, and I'll be darned if we didn't have a telephone right on our bedside tables. It took me about half a second to get started; I got home in about 15 minutes, and you can just figure out that conversation. After I finished the

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT:

Capt Ralph Woolsey will act as instructor for courses in Fundamentals of Advertising and Business Principles and Management at a time and place to be announced later. All interested call Lt. Nichols on Extension 4-R/2.

phone calls, the ward boy started bringing dinner, and Ed—well, by gosh, I can't tell you just how it looked—I had steak and French fries, pie a la mode, milk coffee (we have as much milk as we want); I don't know how long it took me to eat—it seemed like hours.

Then we were interviewed as to our outfit, what's wrong with us, etc; (a write-up goes to the home-town paper); after the interview, the ward boy asked me if I could get up in a wheelchair to go to the PX. I said "And How" and Eddie, here's where I got one of the biggest thrills of my life. Beer, milk shakes, cigarettes, hamburgers, hot dogs, and, best of all, WOMEN IN SWEATERS!! Beautiful women in sweaters. Beautiful gals, beautiful shapes, everything is beautiful—all we did was to sit there and look. And all we do all day long is sit and talk to women—and they talk in English!

Well, Eddie, that brings us up to date; yesterday, they told us we'd be transferred to our regular General Hospital (Stark was just our receiving hospital). I kept my fingers crossed as there were eight possible places, and some were pretty full. Well, Ed, my luck held, and I'm on my way to Hammond General at Modesto, Cal, just 85 miles from home.

Eddie, I'll have to close now, so be good and don't forget to write; tell "Ace" to drop me a line...say "hello" to Frank, Floyd Mac, and Howard—tell the guys I will leave some women for them....I'll write again soon.

Always your best pal,

Jack.
Here are our belated felicitations to recently promoted T/4 Robert Metzger and T/5 Robert Heiting. Metzger is the diligent ward master of Capt Suterielle's Ward #35. Heiting, Major Lieberthal's right-hand man, quickly stepped in, took over, and is doing an excellent job in filling the gap made by the loss of T/3 Donnelly.

Colonel Mason and Major Martin journeyed to Rome during the past week to attend a British sponsored general surgical conference. The Colonel made one dry run, due to poor flying weather, but succeeded in getting away the following day. Major Martin's departure was delayed until Wednesday, because of two severe brain cases which arrived at the hospital early in the week and by a lecture which he was asked to give in Leghorn on Tuesday afternoon.

MESS BUMPS

Are you short of ready money these days? See Spiegelmyer and Co. up around Tent #3 any evening; you'll be shorter, but they will sure show you some of the finer points of playing poker. On the other hand, if you are interested in wrestling, done artistically, you might look up 'Polecat' Johnson and his latest viz--- I mean partner, little Kenny Patterson; look no further, 'Tiny', there are two possibilities there, and a fellow can't be too careful, can he?

And if your English grammar happens to be slightly rusty or if you are out of practice on any subject see Professor Casimer(IQ) Januszewski. Although he doesn't advertise in our local paper, he is an authority on this and that, and all sorts of things like that, and best of all, he's always correct; you can't go wrong in #5.

WANTED: Information and details on the person who so obligingly short-sheared the bed in the ICD room. Persons having information on the subject please contact Captain Elliott.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER to the new group of Pfc's. These men have shown good work and deserve the initial stripe on their climb upward. The ratings were won by Antkoviak, Hunt, Hebry, Michaels, Schoff, Toboliski, Keen, Coapland, Bass, Welsh, Combs, and Simmons.

FOUND: That Sgt Pinegar is the person possessing those "big veins" that the Lab men sing about. Even the tourniquet is not needed. Couldn't have been puffing out your neck too, eh Bill?

SPECIAL SERVICE SAYS:

John J. O'Keefe, A & D Office, completed the course in "Business Principles and Management" at the I & E Office last Monday by taking the end-of-course examination. These tests are available for all the self-teaching and standard text courses.

The application of personnel for courses with the Institute is only a beginning. The true index of accomplishment is the ratio of completions to applications as compared with the ratio of applications to organizational strength.

KING OF EGYPT GIVES £2069 TO YANK TROOPS

Egypt (CNS)—For the 3rd successive year, King Farouk of Egypt has presented American troops in his country with a gift of 500 pounds (approximately £2069) as a "seasonal gesture." The money was turned over to the Special Services Officer, Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces in the Middle East.
A DAY WITH A MEDICAL WARDMAN

After reveille, the daily calisthenics, the usual quick breakfast, shave, polishing of quarters making of bed, and off with a flash to the old stamping grounds for the usual day's run.

The food cart, a mere 100 patients to be fed, the chow line--out of bread and coffee--down the stairs to the kitchen, and back again for the finishing touches of breakfast. Eight o'clock already?

A quick trip to the Pharmacy, the drawing of blood specimen, and to the Lab, "What!!! inspection in half an hour?--Floor to be swept and mopped. Yeh gosh, no water again. Beds to be made, linen exchanged--enough for a truck load. Technician school 10 A.M., followed by a cross-country hike to Medical Supply. Transfer of Patients. Dinner (same procedure as morning).

Basic training today, gee, one man left on the ward and 25 admissions (if 'any doubt of this ask T/5 Kasper Miller). Hike for exercise. After pulling my achings muscles and ligaments together, return for duty at the ward "What, I forgot to pick up my salvage?"--to the company area and back again. Oh boy, only 4 more hours to go....Patient to X-ray; pickup clothing for patients to duty in the morning. The usual routine of duties, and so on until evening meal time....

Chow--the clean up, the usual run of last minute jobs, to the dispensary for throat check, and the return trip to the ward, all the time planning a quiet evening in the tent with a copy of the latest cowboy story. "What is that sergeant? Compulsory lecture tonight! Oh well, I did not catch litter squad, today, anyhow."

A return to the area, and a short 15 minute relaxation at Club Society--and finally retiring for the day with the hope and prayer that it will be raining at reveille time. Oh gee, just the bugler sounding off and the sergeant reminding me only 5 minutes before reveille....

These are the trials of a wardman's life.

FACILITIES MODERN AND COMPLETE

All medical patients require at least general care; many need special treatment. 12th General Medical Service is well equipped and staffed to give it to all comers.

In addition to the wards there are three clinics: Neuro-Psychiatric, Skin Disease, and a General Medical Clinic for "Out" patients, or where surgical cases with medical complications can be examined.

The Neuro-Psychiatric section boasts of their newest piece of apparatus, an Electro-Encephalograph which charts and records brain wave patterns. It is one of two such machines in this theatre.

Dermatitis cases often require soaks of various solutions and bandages; so men on ward 17 have as much dressing as any in the hospital.

Winter time brings hepatitis, and hepatitis means work for ward men. The cure is slow, and patients are confined to their beds for long periods. When recovery reaches its final stage, the patients are taken out daily for four-mile hikes. A medical man, usually Sgts Autrey or Slotwinski are in charge. Hepatitis patients get three meals a day plus three "nourishments"--a snack of sandwiches and fruit beverages. In the summer there are fewer hepatitis cases—that is the season for malaria.
This week we present John "Lefty" Prymicz, another Redbird veteran. Lefty's home is in Toledo, Ohio, where he attended Woodward High School, perennial basketball champions of the Toledo City High School League.

After graduating, Prymicz played basketball for four years in a Class A sandlot league in Toledo, and played basketball for the Polish Athletic Club in the city. Lefty joined the 12th General in February, 1942, transferring from the 215th Medics along with McGraw, McClaid, Wilson, and others.

He was on the Redbirds' 1942 Ft. Custer championship team, and in the spring of '42, he took over the 1st base position on the baseball team which took the Battle Creek City League title.

**LEFTY LANDS LONG ONE**

Old timers will remember for years to come the great running bare-handed catcher Lefty made in the 7th inning of the final game of the Iran Championship Series with the Navy Red Sox in 1943. With Marty Lipka on the mound for the Redbirds and holding a slim 2-1 lead, they were faced with De Ceasere, a powerful hitter, at bat, and two men on base. The navy 1st baseman connected with a fast one and sent it line deep into right field for what looked like the game-winning walloper. But Lefty was off with the crack of the bat, and racing back toward the right field wall, he leaped in the air to stab the ball with his bare hand, turned a somersault and came up with the ball, saving the game and clinching the series.

Last spring, Prymicz earned the name of "Iron Man". McMan and Lipka started the season with 3rd trouble, and after pitching a few innings, they would retire; Lefty would then take over the game and still be ready for his regular turn on the hill.

Lefty joined the Redbirds' basketball team late, this season, and has been breaking in gradually while getting in condition. He saw most of his action in the recent tournament where in two games he displayed his versatility by playing guard, forward, and center. We hope to see more of Prymicz this spring and summer—that is, unless Hitler decides to give...
(cont’d from page 1)
look at them with indulgence. “Let them have their fun. Look what they’ve been thru. Look what they have ahead of them.” We think it wise to let them blow off steam.

We in a base sector medical outfit are built the same way as these others. Our steam or tension is accumulated over a long period of time. It is a product of the derivations of being away from home, a product of the “annoyances” that are so necessary in the regimented existence that is Army life anywhere, a product of close communal living in which one has privacy neither of physical nor of mental life. We do not have the “masculine satisfaction” of fighting. Some are even ashamed to admit that they are “medics”. When we are very busy, some of us get satisfaction in helping fellow soldiers get well; in caring for the sick or crippled. When we are living near a large city like Rome there is all kinds of recreation, movies, opera, ballet, sightseeing, sports, and even enough girls to go round.

But now we are stranded on the flats of Leghorn. The city is destroyed. Recreational facilities are few. There is no place to go. We are not too busy and we have much time to reflect. The result is a drooping in spirits, a lowering of morale and much unhealthily “bitching.” (Healthy “bitching” is desirable.)

Actually our present experience is no different from that of other outfits who never were fortunate enough to be located in a seaside resort like An-el-Faruk or in a city like Rome. How did isolated sick-nack units live, weather stations, etc., live? They lived as “families”, like our fathers and forefathers did before the days of automobiles, telephones, and radio. They learned to live with each other. They were happy and their work productive. Families had musical groups, they played games, read, and had little theatricals. They visited neighbors.

Of course, we are not that isolated. We have movies; plays.

Joe Davis wishes to thank all those who took part or aided in the production of the 12th General Follies, particularly Connie Tarry, AEC, and Merle Pemberton, A & D Office.

(Cont’d from Page 3.)
All members of the cast have experienced dramatic backgrounds. All gave up good opportunities for parts in New York or Hollywood to spend six months overseas with a USC unit. All have parts waiting their return.

The play was presented here three days, during which time the cast visited the wards and various departments of the hospital. Following the run here, the play moved to Pisa, next stage in its circuit of performances.

We have sports; inter-hospital competition. (There should be an intra-mural sports program set up.) Enlisted men have their club, officers theirs. We have recently had a hospital "Follies" admittedly amateurish and "corny" but fun.

We Americans are motivated quite differently from the Europeans. The Englishmen fights "for Britain, for the King", the Russian fights "for Mother Russia", sometimes even "for Stalin", the German "for dem Vaterland" or "for Hitler". We do not fight for any one man. We fight for our way of living; our families. In combat, the soldier has the ideals of his group. The "combat society" is his family; he always does things with and for his "buddies".

The 12th General Hospital is "our" family. It is a large one and it has a proud record both in this war and in the last. Why not join the family, adopt some of its ideology, and help make its life and your own more interesting and complete? You might contribute in your word work, in Red Cross activity, sports, or even as a team supporter. But pitch in; become part of the 12th, support it! Don’t sit alone and mope. Get out with your fellows, and see if you don’t have a better time!