



ANTI-A.W.O.L. AGENTS

Here's a New Red Cross Function: Solving the Soldier's Personal Problems, Paying Mortgages and Caring for Friend Wife!

By ALWYN W. KNIGHT

THE doughboy told his hard-luck story to the Red Cross field director stationed at Governor's island. The yarn had a Nick Carter ring, but the man in uniform was so in earnest you had to believe him. He said his father lived in Fayetteville, N. C. He said his father was out of work and was about to be put on the street. In fact the sheriff, so the story went, was as good as on the doorstep with the foreclosure papers in his hand.

Listening, you almost expected to hear a bugle call and the thunder of hoofs as the proverbial cavalry troop galloped to the rescue.

But this was melodrama plus. The skein of plausibility was there because the thing was so imminent. Actually there was but a day or so left before the foreclosure; and watching the boy's worried eyes helped visualize a dusty street in a sleepy southern town, and on it an elderly man surrounded by hand-me-down furniture with nothing left but the threadbare remnants of a tattered dignity.

The name of the Red Cross field director was J. F. O'Brien. Sitting behind his desk in the Red Cross house—a few steps from the ferry slip servicing Governor's island and Fort Jay—he heard the boy through without a word. Now he asked questions, then picked up a phone. Subsequently it all turned out right; that figurative cavalry troop, underwritten by the Red Cross, did gallop to the rescue. O'Brien contacted the Red Cross chapter in the town where the boy's father lived, instructing the chapter to verify the boy's story (routine) and advance money at once.

Melodramatic Finale.

So the old homestead was saved. And the doughboy repaid O'Brien out of his pay, and O'Brien repaid the chapter. It was the sort of job other Red Cross field directors in other military posts were doing all over the country that same morning for enlisted men of the army, navy, marine corps and coast guard.

This Red Cross help for the enlisted man and his family is an ambitious undertaking. It began when the country entered the World War. Now more than 60 men like O'Brien are stationed throughout the nation. These trained workers and their assistants "cover" 206 army posts and 8 army general hospitals. They cover 408 coast guard stations; 127 navy and marine corps stations; 10 navy general hospitals and St. Elizabeth's hospital in Washington, D. C.

O'Brien leaned back, frowning. "Just what do we do?" he echoed my question thoughtfully. "Well, we act as link between the enlisted man and his superior officer. And we also act as link between the enlisted man and his family. When the boys get in trouble, they come to us. They know that their confidences will never be violated!"

"Sort of an anti-A. W. O. L. agency," I suggested.

"Not exactly. Although there would undoubtedly be a lot more absent-without-leaves if it were not for the work we do."

"What," I asked, "are some of the contributing factors which cause a man to pick up and walk out—without the formality of asking permission?"

"Trouble at home, for one thing." "Trouble at home?"

O'Brien thumbed through the papers on his desk. "Here's a job we did yesterday. A boy whose sister was critically ill. We arranged a furlough so he could go home and give a blood transfusion. Now if we had not arranged the furlough, I dare say he would have made the trip anyway—with unfortunate results."

Romance Is Rescued.

I asked O'Brien to give me another example of a Red Cross field director's routine and he told me about the doughboy, newly married, who was to be transferred from Bilboa, the Canal zone, to Fort Devons. The army paid his expenses, naturally, but what about the young wife who must remain behind because there was not money enough? Yes, the Red Cross again.

John O'Brien, Red Cross field director at Governor's island, New York, hears from Lieut. Thomas J. Marnane how his organization can best serve the enlisted man.

on, the Atlantic branch, United States disciplinary base, and the only military prison in the country. I was introduced to Major Christman, adjutant of the prison, and heard from him what the army thinks of the Red Cross.

"The army couldn't get along without the Red Cross," he said. "The work it does can not be done by anyone else. Mr. O'Brien and your other field directors supply the warm, personal touch which it is not feasible for the army itself to do."

Red Cross and the Navy.

To further pursue my investigation of the anti-A. W. O. L. artillery of the Red Cross, I left Governor's island and went to the New York navy yard at Brooklyn. There Red Cross Field Director Henry W. Rogers told me that peace-of-mind is as essential as discipline in the production of efficiency.

"If our bluejackets start worrying over family and personal troubles," he said, "they can't do the job they enlisted to do justice!"

I found Rogers in his stateroom on the receiving ship, the old U. S. S. Seattle. He had just finished talking with a sailor whose wife, in Texas, had been shown the door by her own mother. As a result, the sailor



Harvey Bruggie, former Purdue football star, hears the grief of an enlisted man at Red Cross house, Governor's island.

was at the address given, right enough; but that, since the address was a cemetery, the unfortunate parent had ceased to ail for a good many years.

To my mind, one of the most worthwhile things these military post Red Cross men do is contact the family of newly enlisted men. A card sent to a mother, and picked at random, gives this information:

"We advise that your son has enlisted and has been assigned for duty with the infantry in China. He is now at Fort Slocum waiting to sail which will probably be January 6, 1938, and until then address your letters to him care Overseas Recruit Depot, Second Recruit Co., Fort Slocum, N. Y. After he sails, address your letters care Commanding Officer, U. S. Troops in China, American Barracks, Tientsin, China. If further information is required, return this card with your query."

Last year the Red Cross at Governor's island sent 10,000 of these cards to next-of-kin of men recruited for overseas service. There is no measuring stick to tell what these routine notifications mean to the folks back home, but the reply of one mother is a conservative indication. "Your card gave me the will to go on living," she wrote. "My boy just disappeared, and not knowing he had enlisted, I thought he was dead, or alone and sick."

I talked with O'Brien a while longer, then went over the island's pris-

was about crazy with worry, because what could you do in Brooklyn about trouble in the Panhandle? Rogers had already set the machinery in motion which would send a sympathetic representative of a Texas Red Cross chapter to see the young wife and help plan an intelligent solution of the problem.

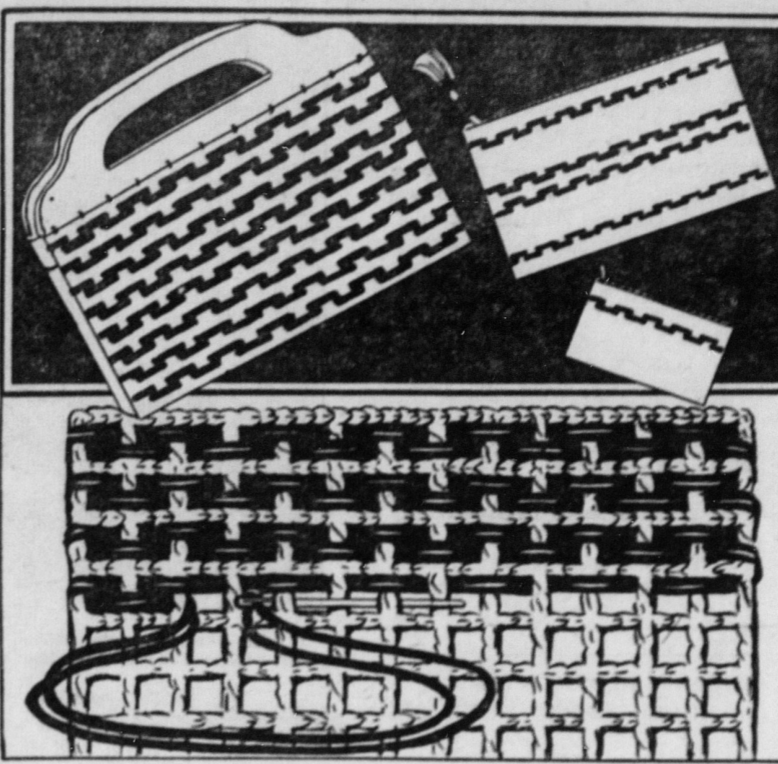
There is a lot to this business of de-frosting a soldier's "worry apparatus" every so often if he is to be kept at peak efficiency. A flight commander at an air base told how a pilot endangered not only his own life but the lives of other pilots. Because of an unaccountable and sudden inability to follow instructions, he was a particular liability in formation flying. Before an accident occurred, he was grounded, and questioning revealed that concern over a distant mother who was gradually losing her mind was behind his unaccustomed inefficiency. The Red Cross handled the case; and when the pilot knew that all that could be done had been, he became himself again.

The men who hold down these Red Cross posts at military stations are in themselves remarkable. Each is carefully chosen. O'Brien, for example, is small, nimble-minded and emotionally sympathetic. Rogers, at the Brooklyn navy yard, has been through the mill; he knows all the answers; he sits up late nights, wondering if there isn't something else the Red Cross can do on some particular case.

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HOW to SEW

By RUTH WYETH SPEARS



Woven Fillet for Bags and Purses.

EITHER crochet cotton or wool yarn in two or more colors may be used for a knitting bag or purses of woven fillet mesh. The foundation is made in the lightest color. The knitting bag in the sketch is white fillet with navy blue threads woven through, as shown. The zipper purse and vanity pouch are ecru with carmine and Delft blue woven stripes. The plain spaces between the stripes are made by weaving through the fillet mesh with matching thread.

To start the fillet foundation, make a chain the length of your bag, then chain 5 more, turn, and make a double crochet in the 6th stitch from the hook. Chain 2, skip 2 and make a double crochet in next stitch. Repeat to end of row, then chain 5 and turn. *Make a double crochet in the top of the

last double crochet. Chain 2. Continue across the row, then chain 5 and turn. Repeat from * until you have enough of the fillet mesh to make your bag or purse. The weaving is done with double thread and a large blunt needle. Work across and then back through each row of the fillet mesh as shown. When a new weaving thread is started, hide the ends in the edge of the crochet.

NOTE: Mrs. Spears' latest book gives complete directions for making many other things for yourself and to use as gifts. It also fully illustrates ninety embroidery stitches with interesting variations. You will use these again and again for reference. Ask for Book 2, enclosing 25 cents (coins preferred). Address Mrs. Spears, 210 S. Desplaines St., Chicago, Ill.

AROUND the HOUSE

Items of Interest to the Housewife

Line the Clothes Basket.—Clothes baskets can be kept clean by lining them with washable material, such as oilcloth, muslin, or heavy paper may be used.

Try This and Please Hubby.—A tablespoon of borax in the water in which white collars are washed will take away that ugly yellow tint and make them as white as new.

Pick Up Sharp Objects.—A vacuum cleaner should not pick up pins, broken glass, tacks or other sharp metal pieces, for they may

poke holes in the dust bag, or chip or throw out of balance the fan blades.

Improving Cookies.—The flavor of cookies is improved and they stay moist longer if one tablespoonful of jam or jelly is added to the cookie dough.

Slow Oven for Sponge Cake.—Sponge and angel-food cakes should be baked in a slow oven so that the air which has been beaten into them has a chance to expand and lighten the cake before the eggs set and give the cake a shape.

Soft Pillows.—One housewife washes all the discarded silken articles of the household, cuts them into tiny pieces and uses them to fill pillows. They are very soft and fluffy, besides costing nothing.

Mealy Baked Potatoes.—To make baked potatoes dry and mealy, when they are tender put a fork at least twice into each potato to let the steam escape.

Outdoor Fireplace.—Backyard fireplaces are easily constructed and provide a center for family recreation during summer months; steak roasts, corn roasts, and marshmallow toasts are only a few of the many reasons for building one.

As You Iron.—Stack your clothes in piles according to the rooms in which they will be put away. Then when you are finished the clothes are sorted and need not be handled twice.

Cream Cheese Substitute.—Cottage cheese may be used in place of cream cheese if it is pressed through a fine sieve to remove the moisture.

A Glorious Inheritance

If we do our best! if we do not magnify trifling troubles; if we look resolutely, I will not say at the bright side of things, but at things as they really are; if we avail ourselves of the manifold blessings which surround us, we can not but feel that life is indeed a glorious inheritance.—John Lubbock.

Make Lace Bolero In Jiffy-Crochet



Pattern 1745.

Dress-up your daytime or summer evening dresses with this dainty lace bolero crocheted in two strands of string. Pattern 1745 contains directions for making bolero; illustration of it and of stitches; materials required.

Send 15 cents in stamps or coins (coins preferred) for this pattern to The Sewing Circle, Needlecraft Dept., 82 Eighth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Please write your name, address and pattern number plainly.

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Ask Me Another

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. What continent is known as "the land astride the equator"?
2. How did the United States acquire Minnesota?
3. What ball player pitched the first perfect game?
4. "Minnesota" means what?
5. How many planes are there on the U. S. aircraft carriers?
6. Is hari-kiri practiced by the Japanese in battle?
7. Of what state was Kentucky originally a part?
8. Where is the ranch that is bigger than the state of Rhode Island?
9. Who gave the name "Rough Riders" to Theodore Roosevelt's men?
10. How many women are there in the various state legislative bodies?

The Answers

1. Africa.
2. Part of it by the Revolution, and the remainder by the Louisiana Purchase.
3. Under the modern rules, Cy Young on May 5, 1904, pitched the first perfect game—no runs, no hits, and nobody reaching first base.
4. "Land of the Sky Blue Water."
5. The Navy department says that there are about 80 planes on each of the United States navy aircraft carriers.
6. When Japanese officers are wounded and unable to carry on, they either shoot themselves or commit hari-kiri, according to a spokesman for the Japanese army.
7. Virginia.
8. The King ranch in southern Texas consists of more than 1,500 square miles, while the area of Rhode Island is 1,248 square miles.
9. In an article in Scribner's Magazine in 1899 Theodore Roosevelt said that the public christened him and his men as "Rough Riders." "At first we fought against the use of the term, but, when finally the general of the division and brigade began to write in formal communications about our regiment as the "Rough Riders," we adopted the term ourselves."
10. According to the Commentator, in 1937, 140 women served in 35 state legislatures.

Recipe for Popularity: Keep Notes on Fair Sex

A senator from the Southwest has revealed the secret of his popularity among the ladies. He keeps notes on everyone he meets at lunches, dinners and receptions, indexed according to the date and place. After the name of each lady he notes an item concerning what she wore or how she dressed her hair. Then when he meets her again, he can say, "Yes, indeed, I remember you perfectly, you were a stunning yellow dress with blue gloves!"

No wonder the ladies all vote for him at election time. Any man who yearns to be liked by the fair sex can profit by using the so-called system.—Liberty Weekly.

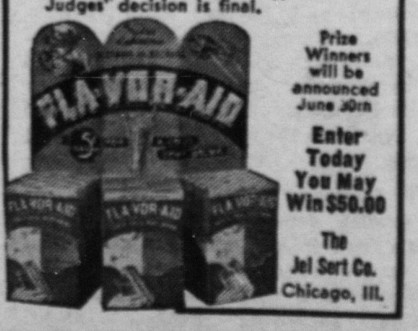
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