

Local Physician Active in Burma

(Continued from page one) anesthetics. And just as carefully, just as swiftly the surgeons worked. One did the leg amputation, another cleaned the lacerations, another set the fractured arm, another cured for the head wounds. Thirty-five minutes later that had been resting in the hospital tent. Next afternoon he was placed on a plane and flown to the general hospital—and he is living, improving steadily.

Japs Shoot to Kill

Such is the work done every day, by men who have one of the war's greatest responsibilities. They're men from civilian practice, out here caring for all who come to them—American, Chinese, Gurkas, British—even Japanese prisoners, and women and children, caught under this savage exchange of shell-fire. They never know what's coming, so they must be prepared for everything: abdominal, thoracic, cranial surgery; fractures of every nature; amputations and facial work. They are ready, all hours, day and night, for the Jap gunners aren't silent when there are targets.

Nor are the enemy gunners concerned about keeping their fire away from the hospitals. We're all enemies to them and they shoot to kill. Maj. Harris' hospital was under constant fire here for several days after the airfield was taken. Bullets sipped through the tent while operations were being performed. And at another portable unit, attached to Col. Charles E. Hunter's headquarters, a Jap gunner got the range and was shooting about breast-high through Maj. Francis Sasama's tent at night while three operations were in progress.

Hospital in Swamp

'Twas the same at the now-famous Seagrave unit, also set up at the Myitkyina airfield. The veteran American medical man who spent most of his life in Burma and who wrote the best-seller "Burma Surgeon" still is doing a tremendous job. His unit was flown in after the airfield was cleared of Japs and he went to work with his famous 20 Burma nurses. When I talked with him, weary but still battling heat and rain and indescribably hard conditions. "We have handled a few more than 700 Chinese patients during the past three days," he said. "I've watched Col. Seagrave's hospital at work. The Chinese were on a continued offensive. The closest trek back was to his hospital, set in a virtual swamp to make it relatively free from strafing.

One after another the bearers came in with the wounded. Doctors and nurses were at work for hours at a time. One day I saw 12 tables busy and three more wounded lying on their stretchers in the rain.

The colonel's clear thinking, Jap-hating, outspoken man. He thinks fast, decides swiftly and usually is right. No man has done so much for the health and well-being of the people of Burma; and now after years as a peacetime physician he's in war work. He's that type of American you couldn't keep out of action in times such as these. You'd never dream, talking to him, that he served all these years as a missionary, and even he laughs at the irony of war which turned his Baptist missionary hospital of Myitkyina into the official home of the Gaijisha girls assigned to duty with the Japanese troops.

Col. Seagrave's nurses are small, with amazing stamina and skill in their profession. This last is due to Dr. Seagrave's own guidance. "If they've a natural aptitude keep 'em," he explains. "Those who don't like it soon show their dislike and I toss 'em out. The best I trust with important work. The least apt do the simple jobs."

No Frivolity At All

With him is a fine English surgeon, Capt. Theodore Gurney; three American doctors, Lt. Col. Milton

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FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY

(September 8th) WILLIAM BOYD as Hop-Along Cassidy, in RIDERS OF THE DEADLINE "Wells Fargo" Sport Reel Cartoon

SATURDAY NIGHT ONLY

(September 9th) Gail Patrick John Hubbard UP IN MABLE'S ROOM A laugh that you'll enjoy. This Comedy! Latest News Issue Selected Shorts

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ONLY

(September 13th) Just the type entertainment the Doctor ordered! MICKY ROONEY LEWIS STONE FAX HOLDEN ANDY HARDY'S BLOND TROUBLE FINEST SELECTED SHORTS

Dushkin of Chicago, Capt. Carl Antonelli of Cambridge, Mass., and Capt. Myles Johnson of Ft. Supply, Okla., and two Indian doctors. The girls hustle around in heavy GI shoes much too large for their tiny feet but termproof. They wear GI trousers and simple feminine waists. There's nothing frivolous; they're strictly on the job.

Maj. Harris doesn't use women nurses. In fact, none of the portable units do except Seagrave's. It's a terrific grind, they're often under fire, and men stand up better. The doctors swear by their enlisted technicians, both on the outer perimeter and in the portable hospitals.

The saga of Maj. Harris' portable unit is one of the great stories of this war. For these men, four officers and 20 enlisted technicians, climbed the 6,000-foot Kumon mountain range with Gen. Merrill's Marauders, their hospital on pack mules which had a sad tendency to slip off the muddy trails and go tumbling down the mountain.

They were under constant fire, of course, because the woods were full of Jap snipers and patrols. It was their job to care for the sick and wounded, pack the hospital and keep up with the marching soldiers. One night, working with flashlights, Maj. Harris and his men cared for 32 Chinese and at dawn lay down for an hour's rest. In came 11 Americans. The unit went back to work. As they operated they received orders to be ready to march at 10 o'clock. So, after a night's work, followed by feverish haste to care for the Americans, they packed and marched all day.

"Nobody can ever repay those 20 technicians for the work they did on that trip," Maj. Harris said, "and no one can imagine the hardships they had, with never a grumble."

All through the campaign they worked, and marched, and worked. Sometimes injured men could not walk, it wasn't safe to leave them behind with natives who may have been Jap sympathizers, or for Jap patrols to find and torture. Such men were carried on an airstrip where the little liaison planes could evacuate them to hospitals. More often wounded men marched next day with the outfit—or else. It was soldier had all he could carry and the animals were loaded down.

Follows Russian Idea

Perhaps this is one reason Maj. Harris is a firm believer in activities on the part of his patients. If they're able to move—and often they find they are able when they think they aren't—he makes them appear for meals and other duties. "It's good for them," he asserts, definitely. "It's natural for a man to be active, and he'll improve faster."

This young surgeon also has convinced himself and those working with him that local and regional anesthesia with procaine is far better on the battlefield than general anesthesia with ether. It has been popularized by Russian surgeons, who have used it almost universally during the war.

A soldier with an injured hand, for instance, can be operated on after procaine solution is injected at the shoulder, into the nerves leading to the injured portion. Naturally, a thorough knowledge of anatomy is imperative. This is called a regional block. Local blocks are used for smaller wounds.

Maj. Harris estimates that since his unit went into operation in March about 5,000 operations have been performed with local or regional anesthetics, using procaine. Those patients were wide awake throughout, in possession of all their faculties and suffered none of the shock usually following the general "put to sleep" anesthesia.

No Toxic After Effect

"Many feared extensive use of procaine would cause a toxic condition, but we find it hasn't," Maj. Harris said, "and we're convinced the patients, who've already undergone great shock, are better after treatment by this new method. They are definitely safer on the planes that carry them back to the general hospital for which no danger of suffocation, which often follows general anesthesia, a plane loaded with many patients can't carry a doctor or technician for each."

"Are other units using this method?" I asked. "None that I know," he said. "They didn't use it in Italy, as far as I know. Col. Seagrave uses the general anesthesia. The men at the other hospital unit nearby are using it some, after having seen our results."

You should know more of the activities of the other hospital Maj. Harris referred to, because it's up yonder, half a mile back of the Jap lines. You should know more also of the treatment soldiers get when wounded. It's a story of heroism, men dressing wounded men out there in plain sight of Jap gunners, of bearers braving rifle fire to bring them back to the portable hospitals, of "casual but highly interesting and potentially fatal fire through portable tents.

Out there where they're aiming carefully and shooting for keeps, the battalion surgeon stations himself at headquarters. Ahead of him, perhaps 200 yards, are his technicians, called "aid men." They've had six months' training, as have hospital technicians, and know how to give blood plasma, how to use the priceless morphine syrettes. They can put splints on a fracture and are under orders to apply splints if there's any possibility of a fracture.

Bold Japs Carry Injured

An injured man can take sulfa drugs in tablet form at once—if not knocked out too badly. When he's hit, however, the aid man's job is to know it, get to him with morphine to deaden the pain, plasma to take up the effect of shock, splints if necessary, then get him back to the portable hospital.

Often his comrades carry him. Often American soldiers boldly drive jeeps up there and hurry the wounded man away under fire. Sometimes, stilted by trees and bushes, natives will hire out to serve as litter bearers, and they'll go. Here's where resourceful Americans have resorted to the oldest form of transportation known to man—the oxcart. Jeeps get stuck in the mud, litter bearers have difficulty, and the trail is long. A pair of oxen plods slowly yet surely through mud and water, jungle, and rice paddy; the native driver sitting on the whiffletree, the wounded lying in the cart.

It works—but Maj. Melvin Schudmac, White Castle, La., the Army surgeon attached to Col. Hunter's command, swears it'll drive him nuts if the war doesn't end soon.

"One native owns the cart, another the oxen," he explains, "and they hire a third man to drive. Then we send an armed guard along, after one patient was killed by a Jap sniper as he lay on the cart. "Well, I get the cart. Then I get the man with the oxen. Then the driver. By the time I get the driver the oxen have gone. I find them and the driver's gone. I get them together and can't find the guard. When I go for him I return to find the driver, cart owner and oxen owner all have disappeared. If I ever get 'em all together at the same time, on the hour, I'll have accomplished the impossible."

Pals Save Hit Soldier

In conclusion I'd like to tell of a group of enlisted men, those who came over the mountain with Maj. Harris and who've never faltered. Since March they've been under fire, hardships, pressure. One of them, T-5 Louis Barbary of Helena, Cal., isn't here now. One day recently he saw a comrade get hit, went after him—and a Jap bullet got him. Two of his pals, T-3 Earl Larson, Harcourt, Iowa, and Pfc. Dick Taylor, Booneville, Ark., went out and got him. He's back at general hospital now, getting well.

Additional Locals

—Mrs. Roy Hall of Milesburg spent the weekend with Mrs. D. E. Crowell, of Tyrone.

—The Misses Betty King, Shirley Lucas, Marilyn Slope and Beverly Rote, all of Bellefonte, spent the weekend at Atlantic City, N. J.

—Miss Grace Mitchell, of North Spring street, spent the weekend with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mitchell and family in Lewistown.

—Miss Margaret Noonan of New York City, is here for a two weeks' visit with her sister, Miss Geraldine Noonan, at the Beezer-Witcraft home on East Bishop street.

—Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Quick and daughters have closed their home in Milesburg for the winter and are occupying one of the Stutzman apartments on West Cuffman street.

—Pvt. Lee Davies, who was stationed at Fort Riley, Kan., left Friday for his new post at Fort Jackson, S. C., after a ten-day visit with his family on Blanchard street.

—Pvt. Charles Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Taylor of Buffalo Run, is spending a 13-day furlough with his wife, the former Evelyn Wright and son, at his parental home.

—Cpl. Richard A. Young, who has been in the South Pacific for the past 28 months, is here for a 30-day visit at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer J. Young, of West Bishop street.

—Mrs. Annie Oswald of Juniata, Altoona, came to Bellefonte by rail, Tuesday morning, and spent the day with relatives and friends here and in Milesburg. Mrs. Oswald formerly resided in Spow Shoe.

—Mrs. Anna Beezer Bertram and daughter, Virginia, of Spring Creek, near Bellefonte, spent the weekend with Mrs. Bertram's mother and sister, Mrs. John Beezer and Mrs. Francis Fleckenstein, of Punxsutawney.

—Harold Pendleton, returned last Thursday to his home in Philadelphia, after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crawley and family, of East Lancaster street. Mr. Pendleton is a Bellefonte native and former resident.

—The September meeting of the Bellefonte Garden Club will be held at the home of Mrs. Joel Stover, 143 East Curtis street, on Tuesday, September 12 at 2:30 p. m. There will be a study of summer flowers and their arrangement.

—Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Lindquist of East Linn street, are planning to move about the middle of this month to the western side of the Zigler double house on East Curtis street vacated this week by Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Ward.

—Mr. and Mrs. William Ring and children, Billy and Jean, moved last Thursday from their home at Axemann to the Mrs. Mary Gray home on West High street, Bellefonte. Mrs. Gray is occupying an apartment in the Bush Arcade building.

—Mrs. Anna Johnson and daughter, Roxie, moved Saturday from their home on Valentine street to the Louis Haupt property in Bush Addition, which they recently purchased. Mrs. Johnson's home was recently purchased by Chester Plummer of Milesburg.

—Mrs. James Caldwell, the former Mrs. McCoy, of Tyrone, and Mrs. John McCoy of near Bellefonte, have accepted a position at the local Retiree Board, replacing Miss Margaret Taylor, who recently resigned. Miss Taylor is now employed at Korman's on North Potter street.

—There was quite a surprise at the William Woerner home of Bellefonte, R. D. Sunday, when Mr. Woerner's two sisters called to spend the day. They were Mrs. Carrie Snyder and Mrs. Catherine Wiley, of Tyrone, also Mr. Woerner's cousin, Charles Amey and two grandsons of Tyrone.

—T. Sgt. Nevin Hazel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hazel of Bush Addition, who had been visiting his parents, left Friday for Miami Beach, Fla., where he will await reassignment. Sgt. Hazel returned about a month ago from the South Pacific, where he had been stationed for more than two years.

—Mrs. William Lucas of Washington, D. C. visited Mrs. Edith Lucas from Wednesday until Monday.

—Mr. and Mrs. George Bacon of Lemont, Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Armstrong of State College, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Roseman of Millheim, were recent callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Houtz.

—Mrs. E. W. Hess, Mrs. T. J. Whitman and Betsy Hess were dinner guests of Mrs. Fred Lonberger, Sunday.

—Mr. and Mrs. Edward Spotts and daughter, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whitehill, spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whitehill at Pleasant Gap.

—Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Barrett and family of Altoona, spent last week at the Robert Hess cabin in Muser's Gap.

—Mr. and Mrs. George Mothersbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Mothersbaugh and son spent Sunday at the Lynn Mothersbaugh home at Pottery Mills.

—Mrs. Charles Gearhart and sons spent the weekend with Mrs. Adam Garner at Pine Grove Mills.

—Mrs. L. N. Snyder and children of Victory Village, Baltimore, spent the weekend with Mrs. W. A. Rocky and Mrs. Leah Wright, Richard Goben of Pittsburgh, spent Sunday afternoon with his mother, Mrs. Mary Goben.

—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Baird and two daughters, and Mrs. Dorothy Hunsberger of N.ristown, visited Mrs. Baird's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Houtz, from Thursday until Monday.

—Mrs. Anna Bennett of Altoona, was a recent visitor with her daughter, Mrs. Robert Hess.

—Mr. and Mrs. John Durner spent Sunday at the Harry Scott home at Petersburg.

—The Civic Club held its meeting Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Wilbur Houtz, with these members present: Mrs. Charles Faxon, Mrs. Emma Brouse, Mrs. Foster Charles, Mrs. Leah Wright, Mrs. Virginia M. Hess, Mrs. Robert Hess, Mrs. Fred Lonberger, Misses Margaret Dale and Emma Eliza Stuart.

—Blair Homan, S. 2 c. of Newport News, Va. spent a six-day furlough with his family and parents.

—Charles Hubler spent Monday with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hubler.

—Mrs. Stella Davidson and daughter Vera, Mrs. Harold Davidson and Ray Lucas, Jr. of Wingate, Mrs. Merle Houser and son Bobby, Roy Markle of State College, William Houser and Mary Parks of Baltimore, were recent callers with Mr. and Mrs. George Markle and daughter Mae.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips visited relatives in Akron, Ohio, from Thursday until Tuesday.

—Rev. and Mrs. D. G. Daup and son spent Thursday in Altoona with relatives.

—Miss Patsy Heverly of State College, spent the weekend with Mrs. Charles Manning.

—Mrs. William Thompson and her granddaughter, Betsy Hess, spent Wednesday at the Harry Coble home at State College.

—Mrs. C. E. Hewitt and sons, David and Walter, of Altoona, spent Tuesday with Mrs. Margaret Kuhn.

—Mrs. Clara Stover, who had spent some time here with Mrs. Kuhn.

—Miss Pearl Way of Williamsport, is spending this week at the Rodney McClellan home.

—T-5 Hassel Thompson and wife and children spent Wednesday with relatives and friends at Bellefonte.

—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fisher and daughter of Hatington, spent Sunday at the Fisher-Lewis home.

—Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Way and children of State College, spent Monday evening at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Waltz completed a course in electrical engineering in New York City and is now spending a 12-day furlough with his wife and three sons at their home in Shingletown. He will report to Fort Jackson, S. C., after his furlough.

—Cpl. Charles Wert Bohn is in the hospital at Camp Carson, Colo., since July 15, where he is suffering from rheumatic fever. Cpl. Bohn entered service Nov. 26, 1942. He is in the infantry.

be effected. The infection results from a skin condition for which a cure has been found in the last year. Mrs. O'Donnell will be required to return to the hospital from time to time in the coming months, but expects to be able to resume her work in the law offices of Fleming & Litke about the middle of this month. She made the trip home as the driving guest of her brother-in-law, Philip Witcraft, of Cherry Lane.

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Rye Bread Large 24-oz. Loaf 12c
Family Bread 2 22 1/2-oz. Loaves 19c
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Chickens Fresh or Roasting Lb. 49c
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