

MAY 13, 1945

Morale-Boosting Programs Staged At Camp Butner

Hospital Patients See Their Share Of Entertainment Card

It is widely recognized that a happy mental attitude—good morale—is vitally important in healing the sick. It is equally well known that proper recreation is conducive to this happy mental outlook.

In the U. S. Army, providing recreation is the major task of that branch known as Special Services.

Now, by fitting the foregoing statements together it is easy to comprehend the importance of the ambitious program of recreation carried on by Special Services for the benefit of patients at the huge U. S. Army Hospital Center at Camp Butner—a program which includes band concerts, stage shows, dances, motion pictures and athletic events, made possible in the General Hospital by Lt. M. M. Gurian and his crew of 12 enlisted men and one WAC.

In the words of Lieutenant Gurian, "Special Services has a dual function at this hospital, (1) to bring entertainment to all confined patients right in their wards and (2) to handle the overall entertainment for ambulatory patients who are physically able to leave their wards." These are very different phases of the job, and are handled as such by the genial officer and his men.



Camp Butner Ward Show

Shown in the picture above is Special Services Swing Group entertaining overseas patients in a ward of the U. S. Army General Hospital at Camp Butner, commanded by Brig. Gen. Roy C. Heflebower. Members of the group (left to right) T-5 Howard Siegel, arranger; Sgt. Samuel Kaufman, Pvt. Alan Bergman, Sgt. Nick Barile, band leader; Pvt. Walton Beurink, behind the microphone with back to camera; Sgt. Elray Eck, Pvt. Raymond Shindledecker (a patient at the General Hospital) and Pvt. Ralph Radley. The program is being broadcast over Station WDNC, Durham.