

FRIENDLY SERVICE

Red Cross service to the men and women of our armed forces on active duty encompassed a great variety of welfare activities related to the man's life as an individual.

It concerned his personal troubles, his leisure time, and his comfort.

Major among all was work designed to cope with conditions causing the man to worry. Whether the worry arose from adjustment of the individual to military life or the common, day-by-day human difficulties, the Red Cross field force was prepared to listen attentively and act promptly. Frequently the trouble was cleared by discussion of the problem with the field director. When approved by his commanding officer, grants or loans were made to meet a man's pressing needs. If the situation involved other persons, satisfactory settlement of the difficulty was sought. If trouble or the fear of trouble at home caused worry, a telegram or cable to the Home Service staff in the local Red Cross chapter brought prompt action and a quick report to relieve the man's mind.

These home troubles ran the whole range of human experience—childbirth, sickness, injury, death, loss of family income, loss or damage to home, trouble with the law, marital difficulties.

At the request of a commanding officer, the Red Cross confirmed home conditions for his decision on discharge or furlough.



Caring for the families of soldiers and ex-servicemen in distress and in any crisis where they might request aid was a paramount duty of Home Service, whose workers were available 24 hours a day in the 3,756 local Red Cross chapters. If required, immediate financial help was given. Or the facts were referred to the public or private agency in the community organized to give the special type