

diverting instruction in arts and crafts, developing interesting hobbies for the patients' permanent enjoyment.

In Red Cross recreation houses at station, general, and convalescent hospitals, concerts, movies, stage shows, song-fests and organized games helped relieve the boredom of convalescence.

As the year advanced, about 10,000 Hollywood feature shows a month were screened in American and overseas military hospital wards, by portable sound projectors, and more than 2,500 a month in Red Cross hospital recreation buildings, using theater-size projection machines.



Servicemen about to be discharged for disability were interviewed by Red Cross hospital personnel and helped in filing their pension claims. If they expressed a desire for continued Red Cross assistance following discharge, they were given the address of the home-town chapter and informed that it was prepared to represent them in connection with their applications for veterans' benefits.

In Veterans Administration regional offices, field directors followed through on cases entrusted to the Red Cross to obtain required evidence and secure prompt decision on claims.

COMFORTS

To men as they came out of the lines Red Cross workers gave cigarettes. They gave comfort articles to men upon embarkation, and again as needed behind the lines, in base camps and in all hospitals. A comb, a toothbrush, a razor, even a button and needle and thread, had an enormous morale value to a man miles from his accustomed corner store. Millions of kit bags were made and packed by Red Cross workers back home. Red Cross sweaters and other wool comfort articles were provided upon requisition of commanding officers. At Christmas time, Red Cross gift packages—razor blades, gum, candy, cigarettes—were given.