

Navy Nurse Lauds "Leatherneck" Spirit

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Ensign Karpelenia On Leave Says Too Much Praise Can't Be Bestowed

"Our Marines are a fighting bunch. Their spirits are high and the morale is excellent."

That is the information Ensign Helene E. Karpelenia of 1465 East Sixth Street, now enjoying a well earned leave, brings back from the South Pacific.

A member of the U. S. Navy Nurses Corps, Ensign Karpelenia spent three years in the service of her country, most of which she served in the South Pacific. She had a number of interesting experiences, and besides aiding in alleviating the suffering of the wounded, also comforted them with vocal selections. She is a talented vocalist.

Following her graduation at Liberty High School, she enrolled in the College of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from the latter institution in 1939. For a year after her grad-

uation she engaged in nursing at the University Hospital, where she was head nurse in pediatrics.

When asked what these "fightingest" Marines like most, she replied: "They like to see a white woman. They see so many of the natives that they come running every time the word goes around that there are white women in a certain area."

"They miss the women of the U. S. A., and what they crave are letters from home. They cannot receive too many letters. They deserve the best."

Before joining the Navy Nursing Corps, Ensign Karpelenia completed a training in voice at one of the prominent schools in the East. At Newport she entertained at Navy Day programs and also appeared on programs for the entertainment of wives of Army and Navy officers.

DIVERS DUTIES

When she reached Hawaii her duties were divided. In conjunction with her nursing duties, she organized a male glee club and was soloist in several Protestant churches; appeared in a number of recitals in various sections of the Islands, and was featured in a sacred concert in St. Clement's Church, Honolulu.

She also appeared in plays entitled "Cooking With Gas," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," and others. In an "All-Victory" program broadcast from the islands, she appeared on the same program with Captain Maurice Evans of the U. S. Army, and Judith Anderson, the latter making a tour of the theatres of war. Both Captain Evans and Miss Anderson are stage and movie luminaries.

A lyric soprano, she favored with a number of selections, accompanied by Lt. J. G. Gaylard Carter, who originally appeared on the Amos and Andy program as the accompanist. The broadcast, she pointed out, was in the interest of a bond drive, which had a successful termination.

TO GO TO NEW POST

A daughter of Charles Sr. and Elizabeth Karpelenia, she is a member of a family that is 100 per cent for Uncle Sam. She has a brother Charles Jr., seaman second class, who is on duty at Bermuda and another brother, Michael, a cadet in the Air Corps at Phoenix, Arizona, a third brother, Alex, is about to be inducted into the combat forces.

Ensign Karpelenia will be in Bethlehem until January 21. When she returns to duty she will be assigned to the North Pacific.



ENSIGN KARPELENIA
... home on leave

uation she engaged in nursing at the University Hospital, where she was head nurse in pediatrics.

She enlisted in the service of the country following her career at the hospital, and was assigned to duty at the Naval Hospital, Newport, R. I. From the latter place she was transferred to Hawaii, reaching that distant outpost a few months after the Pearl Harbor sneak.

IN HAWAII 18 MONTHS

For 18 months she had been stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, and served in several of the U. S. Hospitals, administering to the wounded, gallant Marines and fighting tars who participated in the Battle of the Solomons, Midway, Tarawa, Gilberts, and also some of the Pearl Harbor casualties.

"Too much praise cannot be showered on the Marines," Ensign Karpelenia declared. "The day they are brought to a hospital,