

Kennedy, Robert H.

## Local Soldier Develops New Cast For Crippled Comrades

HEADQUARTERS, EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS: A raspberry-flavored cast for twisted knees is the latest production of the pharmacy department at a United States Army general hospital in England, commanded by Colonel Roland B. Moore of Portland, Maine.

Corporal Robert H. Kennedy, 33, 609 West Union Boulevard, Bethlehem, Pa., tackled the job of making the cast after an urgent plea from the orthopedic department. His problem, to make something stronger than elastic bandage and less rigid than plaster cast.

A registered pharmacist in civilian life, he contacted the mess department and "wangled" some raspberry jello which contained gelatine.

Then making a paste of zinc oxide and glycerine and adding the jello before congealing, he struck on a combination similar to rubberized plaster.

When its hard, this paste bounces like a rubber ball. To apply it, nurses heat the paste until it becomes liquid. The gauze is wrapped around the patient's knee and the paste-liquid is poured over the gauze. The procedure is repeated four times. Result is a jello cast, strong, but still having a certain flexibility.

Cpl. Kennedy was commended by Major Milton S. Thompson, of Portland, Maine, chief of the orthopedic service, for his quick response

to this emergency need. **MAR. 3 1944**

Cpl. Kennedy is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, class of 1932, and, according to his family, always was interested in things chemical. He worked as a pharmacist at Weiner's Drug Store on Main Street before he entered the Army Sept. 7, 1942.

Three months after going into the service he was in England, shipping out from Canada. Now attached to an Army hospital there, he has been on duty as a pharmacist and has won the praise of his superiors for his fine work. He is a Liberty High School alumnus.

There are two brothers, both younger, in the service, too. They are Vernon J., an aviation engineer now in Italy, and Reynold, who started out as a chaplain's assistant and is now a member of the chemical warfare division "somewhere in Alabama." The boys are sons of Lucy D. and the late Robert H. Kennedy.

Not long ago Mrs. Kennedy was called on the telephone from New York by a young Virginia private just returned from England who had been a patient in the same hospital where Cpl. Kennedy is on duty. This soldier, who gave his name as Houghton, was being invalided home from wounds. He told Mrs. Kennedy that her son is doing a splendid job, always accepting the tough assignments and always going beyond the ordinary call of duty to see that his department operates at maximum efficiency to the benefit of his wounded buddies.

March 3, 1944