

Lewry, Dorothy

Lt. Dorothy Lewry, Bethlehem Army Nurse, Sees Life in Iran

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Afternoon temperatures at 180 degrees, being treated like a princess by Iran natives, and living in a place so wild that a 9 p. m. curfew is in effect for all Army personnel—that's the lot of Lt. Dorothy Lewry, one of 12 nurses who are the first white women at an Army post in Iran, 100 miles from "civilization."

Lieutenant Lewry, a 1942 graduate from St. Luke's hospital, Bethlehem, revealed her love for her work, praise for American, fascination in her new surroundings, eagerness to serve, and a hankering for the comforts of home, in letters sent to friends in her native Bethlehem.

"I saw starving, crippled, lowly, diseased people you never would see in pictures or medical books anywhere," she wrote.

"Women here do all the work, carrying large bundles on their heads, while the men gossip and push boats around. The men and women never talk and laugh with each other on the streets, or hold hands. We Americans laugh and sing and chatter. They either think we are royal or just plain crazy."

Women on the streets try to kiss the clothes of the nurses as they pass, the letter stated.

"Americans prove a striking contrast to all races here, being the most progressive, ideal people. They started at the very bottom of this most desolate country, the hardest place on the earth to live, adjusting to adverse conditions, and doing the jobs we were sent to do. If they can accomplish it, we will win the war. American engineers get through. I've seen it already.

"We have not so far been aiding the wounded as would answer the desire I've had to be in the Army: we have not been lucky enough to show our boys what we really are made of yet," it continued.

The young Army nurse is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Stauffer of Indian Trail Park, near Northampton and her mother said



LIEUT. DOROTHY LEWRY

today in a telephone conversation that the daughter is a most prolific correspondent, her letters, all censored, run as much as 20 pages sometimes. Yesterday, Mrs. Stauffer received a two-pound package of dates from Iran, mailed on March 27.

Lieut. Lewry receives the Globe-Times and in one of her letters home mentioned that she read in the editorial columns of the paper of the declaration of war January 18 by Iraq, she being in that storied land herself when the act took place.

Greatest hazard to health in Iran is the fact that the water is so bad, the public supply coming mainly from the irrigation ditches, which are also the sewers.

The nurses expect to break up soon. Lieutenant Long expects to go south, alone, perhaps by plane, she declared.

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