

McIlray, M. Naomi

Local Army Nurse In England Has High Praise For Red Cross

"The Red Cross is our best friend. No one at home really realizes how good to us they really are," writes Virginia McIlray, U. S. Army nurse now stationed in England, to Miss M. Naomi Hauser, director of nurses at St. Luke's Hospital.

Miss McIlray is one of the nurses from Bethlehem and vicinity whose names appeared a few days ago in the Globe-Times as serving their country as modern Florence Nightingales.

"I like England," she says, "and just wish it were nearer home. The country is beautiful and the people are very nice. They have taken us

into their homes and have gone out of their way to be helpful."

Continuing her praise for the Red Cross, Miss McIlray writes, "Even before we left the States they went out and shopped for us when we were restricted to our post. All those little things we wanted to get they bought for us. Then, also, they bid us goodbye personally at the pier. This meant so much—to have a woman around to say, 'So long for a while'."

Miss Hauser has heard from two other nurses, Lt. E. Jane Pfeuger, who is in Italy, and Miss Anne Mesko, serving in Australia.

Lt. Pfeuger tells how she "just got back from a four-day rest at one of the most beautiful rest camps in Italy. We ate, danced, played ping-pong and billiards, forgot about the nursing profession and really lived like human beings, U. S. style, for the first time in almost ten months."

The Red Cross runs the rest camps, and your dollars help support the service. Put yourself in Lt. Pfeuger's shoes and imagine your sensations after ten months of blood and pain and dirt and the sounds of battle never very far away. Then double that contribution.

Nurse Mesko, away off "Down Under," gives her former "boss" an idea of the stiff routine she is carrying on at her Australian hospital. "I've worked in wards and it's been most interesting to see what a difference there is in each ward's routine, depending on the head nurse, doctor, type of service, patient, etc. Thus far I have worked 16 different wards, plus relieving the night supervisor on her nights off.

"Have had a bit of everything—medicine, surgery, contagion, GI convalescent and physio. I haven't minded being on nights and over holidays; in fact, I've been thankful for it. Haven't had an opportunity to be depressed or homesick. I worked up a little Christmas spirit—put up a tree in my room and a wreath over my door."

What relaxation these girls get is provided by the Red Cross through clubs and rest camps and similar facilities. There are 70 of them from Bethlehem and vicinity. They are depending on you for your support of the Red Cross War Fund drive here for \$192,000.