

PURPLE HEART DIARY

By FRANCES LANGFORD

Famous Motion Picture Star and Singer Who Is Touring the United States to Entertain the Wounded



SANTA ANA, Cal., June 12—The greatest gifts a veteran's family can give the returning serviceman are faith and understanding.

That's the opinion of Maj. George T. Mitchell, director of the AAF Convalescent Service Division of the hospital for combat veterans at Santa Ana.

"Miss Langford, if the civilians had a better understanding of this operational fatigue business," Maj. Mitchell said, "it would be a wonderful break for the fellows in our hospitals."

Operational fatigue is the result of putting one too many twists on the tightly wound spring of a combat man's nervous system.

"Every man has a different degree of resistance to military pressure," Maj. Mitchell explained. "This is important: A man's degree of resistance to the particular stress of combat does not measure his mental capacity or his ability to withstand other kinds of stress."

"In other words, a man who comes in here with operational fatigue may be able to handle the most gruelling civilian job without a nervous twitch of his eyebrows."

"Don't ever get the idea these lads are unemployable. They aren't."

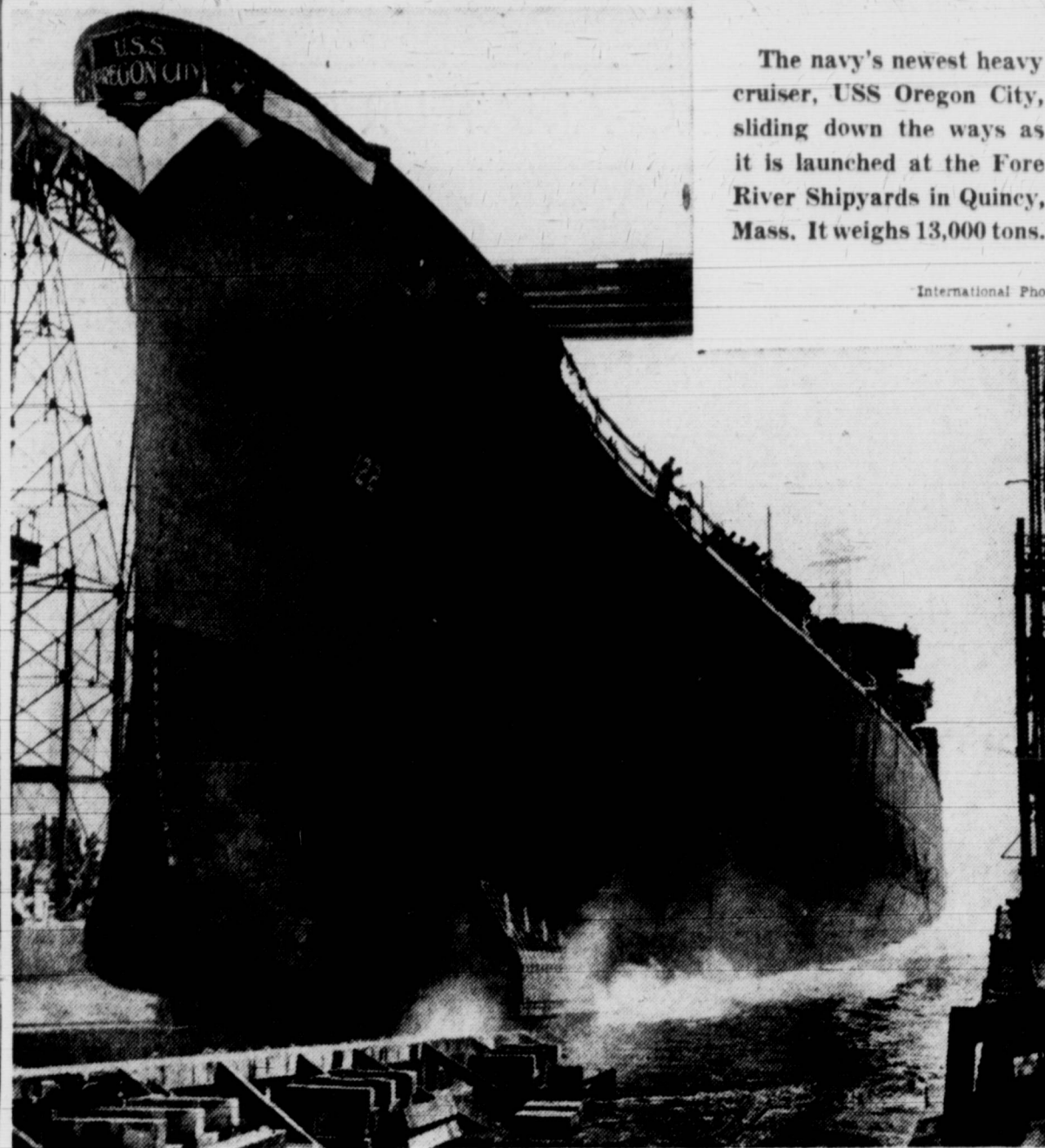
When a fatigued pilot, for example, is assigned as operations officer of a domestic air base he may be a crackjack man for the job. His fatigue is gone because he's found congenial work. He just wasn't built for the demands made on him as a combat pilot for a great length of time.

Maj. Mitchell is optimistic about the postwar future of his convalescents.

"Many first rate civilians aren't up to military life. That's no reflection on them at all. They plug along, do a great job for the army, but sooner or later develop this anxiety stress. We've found their return to civilian life wipes away all vestiges of trouble. They slip beautifully into the swing of their old job or profession."

"Give them a break," Maj. Mitchell stressed. "Tell your readers that our convalescent patients are not psychotics. The great majority will be just the same type of fellows they were before they entered the army. Just give them a chance to prove it."

Newest Cruiser



The navy's newest heavy cruiser, USS Oregon City, sliding down the ways as it is launched at the Fore River Shipyards in Quincy, Mass. It weighs 13,000 tons.

International Photo

CHOW ON BELLE ISLE



Members of the 31st Infantry Regiment, Michigan State Troops, lining up in chow line for their first meal at Camp

Pulford, which has opened for its second season on the eastern tip of Belle Isle. The camp will continue until Labor Day.

Times Photo

Woman Found Dead in Cellar

Hugh Lynch, 65, of 3317 Stanley was held by police today for investigation into the death of his 62-year-old sister, Mamie Lynch, whose body he found last night in the gas-filled basement of their home.

Lynch told homicide detective Lt. Charles Buckholdt that he collapsed when he entered the basement at 6:30 p. m. but recovered enough to crawl upstairs and telephone police. He was treated at Receiving Hospital.

Buckholdt tentatively listed Miss Lynch's death as a suicide from carbon monoxide gas. Air openings around doors and pipes leading into the cellar were plugged by rags and it was indicated that a gas jet beneath a water heater had been open for more than an hour, he said.

Tank Jobs Cut Back

Drastic reduction in the M-24 tank and spare parts output at the Cadillac Motor Car Co. was announced by the ordnance department of the U. S. Army today.

The cutback in manpower has not been determined, but it was learned that at least 4,000 persons ultimately will be affected. Company spokesmen said that they had been told of the cutback but do not know the extent of the reduction or when layoffs will start. They added, however, that a layoff schedule will be ready in about a week or 10 days.

War Manpower officials are taking immediate steps to channel workers who will be released into other vital war production in the area so that there may be no serious labor dislocations, according to Edward L. Cushman, state WMC director.

Cushman asked all persons who are laid off to reply to their respective USES offices immediately.

In announcing the reduction at the Cadillac plant, Lt. Col. Glenn C. Wilhite, contracting officer for the Detroit district, lauded both the company and its employees for their work.

Detroit to Head Telephone Pioneers

Robert N. Hollier, Detroit, has been named president of the Wolverine (Michigan) Chapter of the Telephone Pioneers of America for the year beginning July 1, it was announced today.

The election was by mail ballot among the 2,500 members in Michigan. Hollier has been with the Michigan Bell Telephone Co. 26 years. He is a former president of the Federation of Telephone Employees of Michigan.

Annapolis Appointments
Young men between 17 and 21 living in the Fourteenth Congressional District interested in an appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy were urged today to write to Rep. Louis Rabaut in Washington before June 19. Examinations will be held in Detroit July 28.



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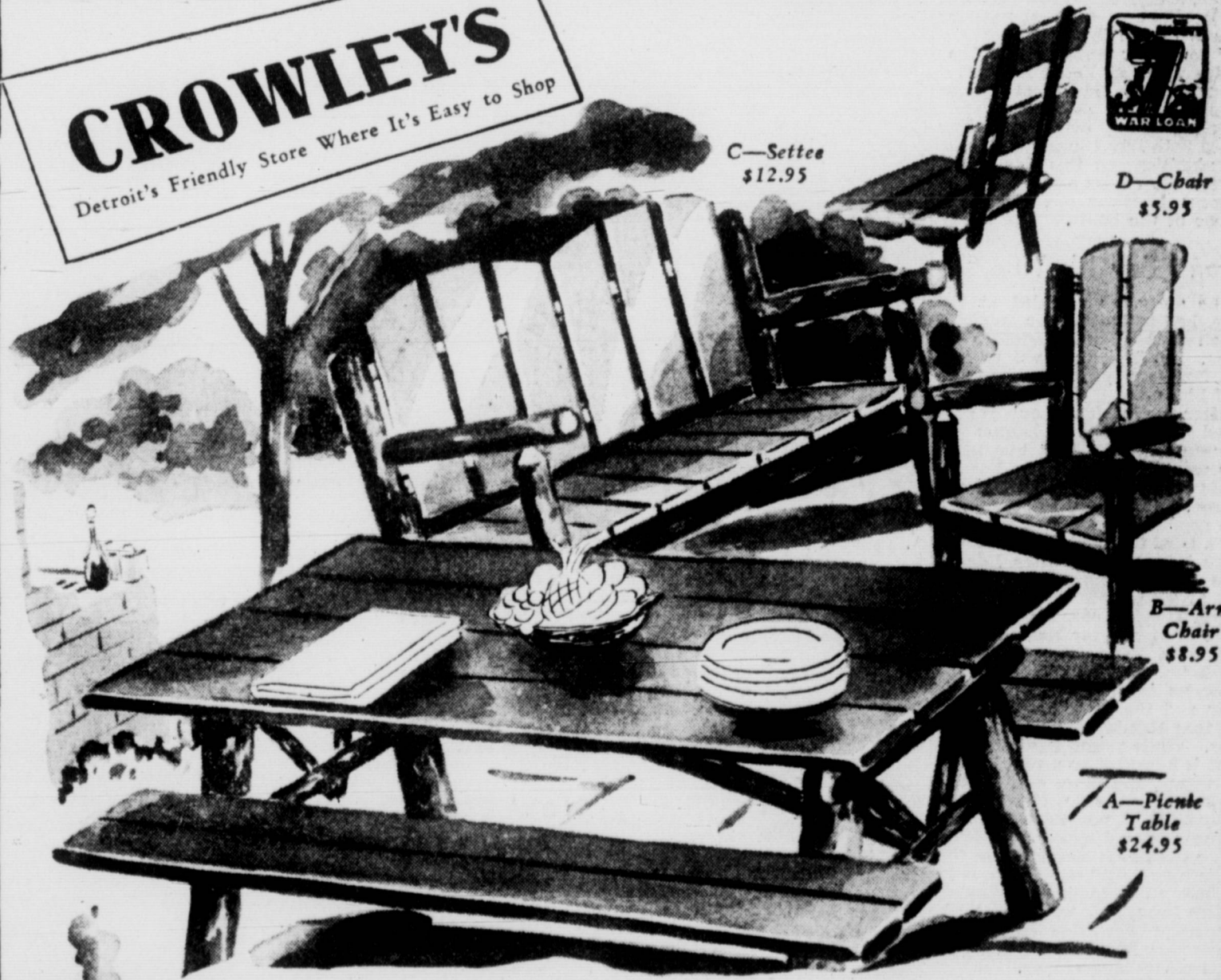
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