

1945

## USO, five years of service: report of the president

United Service Organizations

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*Five Years  
of Service*

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

February 4, 1946



## FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

*The USO was created by its member agencies to serve the nation jointly and cooperatively in a time of national emergency. It later was made the channel, by means of USO-Camp Shows, through which the entire amusement industry could make its special contribution to the entertainment and morale of the armed forces.*

*By its contract with the Federal Government, and still more through five years of financing by the whole American people who have given \$200,000,000, the USO in its own right was made responsible for a large area of service, complicated but well defined.*

*It is fitting that a public report be rendered, giving an account of stewardship, reflecting the over-all organization as it exists at the moment, and calling attention both to elements of the shifting scene and to factors which must control the future course of USO.*

*Because the war is won but not yet over for millions of men, and because the transition from war to peace is a hazardous span in time, the report is rendered in some detail.*



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## *USO AND THE RED CROSS*

By direction of the War Department and concurrence of the Navy, welfare and recreational activities of the Red Cross and USO were outlined definitely to prevent overlapping of effort.

The Red Cross was recognized as the "sole non-military agency to operate with an expeditionary force," upon request of the Army. This kept USO clubs from Africa, Europe, China, Japan and other war theaters.

Outside continental United States, the Army and Navy dealt with the USO for Hawaii, Panama, Newfoundland, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Alaska and, in general, South America, with the Philippines added in 1945 after they were liberated.

USO-Camp Shows, Inc., was recognized as the sole agency for the procurement of professional theatrical talent in the United States for showing to troops overseas, performing only on military posts and in war theaters.

Late in December, 1945, USO-Camp Shows was entrusted also with the task of providing shows for 97 hospitals of the Veterans Administration, as well as the hospitals operated by the Army and Navy which are gradually being shifted to Veterans Administration control.



# USO IN THE YEAR OF VICTORY

To the 14,000,000 men and women who have served or are serving in the armed forces of the United States, USO means a billion "touches of home"—an infinite variety of personal services ranging from the routine provision of writing paper to the convalescent care provided by USO hostesses specially trained to help wounded veterans readjust to civilian life.

Taking stock of these services on its fifth anniversary, USO finds that at its peak of activity, it was serving 1,000,000 people a day in one capacity or another, running up to more than 1,100,000,000 the total served since the organization started, February 4, 1941.

The number of operations, such as clubs, lounges and similar activities, reached a high point back in March of 1944, a total of 3,035. As training camps closed and the men went overseas this number declined, but the over-all volume of work increased.

The five-year peak of activity and cost came after peace in Europe and before the surrender of Japan. Redeployment of troops reopened many camps, doubled or vastly increased loads at various seaport cities, and produced movement of warships and vessels loaded with soldiers on so huge a scale the demand for service taxed USO to the limit. Expenditures climbed to \$5,800,000 a month.

## *Current Operations*

Even today five months after V-J Day — USO must still operate on a basis of \$4,000,000 a month. Overall operations, aside from USO-Camp Shows, are carried on through nearly 2,000 units. These include 1282 clubs, nearly half of which are located near hospitals; 259 lounges and other services for men and women in transit; 82 mobile and maneuver units; 144 USO offices and 200 USO Councils (as of December 31, 1945).

This means that even though USO has responded to requests of the Army and Navy in opening new clubs and other installations — such as in the Philippines, Newfoundland and Labrador where large bodies of men are being kept on duty — it has been possible to effect a net reduction of 1,068 operations.

It is anticipated that before the end of 1946 the Army and the Navy will have completed their demobilization and will then be stabilized. A detailed study of the plans for domestic military installations of the Army Service Forces, Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces, Navy and Marine Corps indicates that some 244 different communities will be subject to a major military impact beyond 1946 and perhaps through 1947.





Time-on-their-hands is turned to work-with-their-hands by crafts directors in USO clubs. Plexiglass work, such as RM 1/c Harry Bauer is doing at an Astoria, Ore., USO club, is currently popular with service men, along with ceramics, wood carving and leather work.

### **Domestic Club Operations**

What types of services are being provided by USO? Those listed on the facing page are taken from actual club reports. They might normally be expected of USO. But every club director gets requests for many other services that are not listed in the program guides — and more often than not he manages to carry out the assignment. Like the time a hurricane hit Key West, Fla., and the USO was called on to house hundreds of storm-refugees, even to providing candle-heat, the only kind available for warming up babies' formulas. Or the day a group of GI's en route to a distant Pacific Island asked for 1,000 packs of assorted seeds so they could grow their own vegetables overseas. Or the Oceanside, Cal., club that checked a Marine's four-foot snake for the evening, because the Marine wanted to go to the movies while the snake didn't.

Sometimes the service begins before there is a club. The manner in which one club was constructed is typical of how community spirit has been crystallized into action through USO. This was in San Jose, Cal., early in the war. When representatives of the different elements in the community met to lay plans for a much-needed USO club, the trade union people said the best way they could help was by contributing their own labor. So they got together — the carpenters, the plumbers, the plasterers, the painters and other skilled workers in the building trades. Net re-

sult: one completely-furnished, fully-equipped model club house. Time of construction: *one day*.

There are many interesting stories to tell of the way in which the American people voluntarily picked up a war-time job and carried it out magnificently through these USO community activities. The town of Sayre, Pa., for example. One of the proudest days of Sayre's war-time record of serving 577,728 service men was, paradoxically enough, the time they closed the doors of their Valley USO Club and went home when they heard a troop train was due! But there was a reason.

It was one night last June, when the USO canteen had been told to stand by for three trainloads of the 86th Division, fresh from the ETO and en route to Tokyo. The three trains steamed into the station and pulled out. The USO people started to close up for the night when three more trains steamed in, crammed with hungry, thirsty, leg-cramped Black Hawks. By midnight, when the sixth train left, the USO pantry was emptied, all available private refrigerators and restaurants had been tapped, and cookie jars and milk bottles were drained.

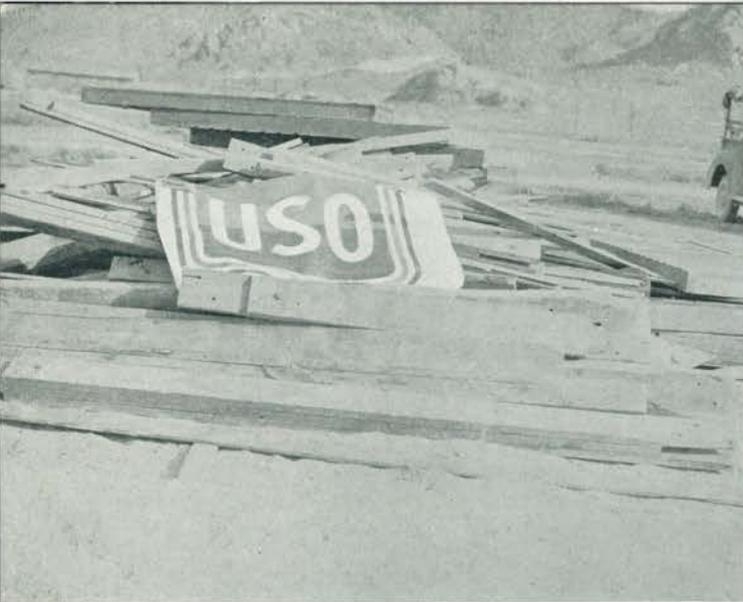
"When we heard a seventh train was due, we just locked up and went home in a hurry," the chairman reported. "All we had left to serve was water."

Sayre's entire population just tops the 7,500 mark, but the monthly door count for the town's canteen was often triple that.

# "A BILLION ACTS OF KINDNESS"

- Amateur dramatics
- Amateur nights
- Apple ducking
- Archery
- Art exhibits
- Art materials
- Arts and crafts
- Astronomy clubs
- Auction nights
- Badminton
- Bag checking
- Ballroom dances
- Bamboo craft
- Band concerts
- Barbecue parties
- Barn dances
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bean races
- Bible classes
- Bibles presented
- Bicycling
- Billiards
- Bingo parties
- Birthday parties
- Block printing
- Boat trips
- Boating
- Bobsledding
- Book reviews
- Bookbinding
- Bookkeeping
- Books to read
- Bowling
- Boxing
- Bridge games
- Calisthenics
- Camera loans
- Campfire circles
- Canoeing
- Canteens
- Card game lessons
- Cartooning classes
- Chain dinners
- Charades
- Charcoal sketching
- Checkers
- Chess
- Child day camps
- Children's days
- Children's story hour
- Church transportation
- Chinese checkers
- Christmas parties
- Cigarettes
- Circus dances
- Civil Service advice
- Club newspapers
- Coasting
- Coconut craft
- Coed picnics
- Community sings
- Contest prizes
- Conveying messages
- Cooking contests
- Cooking lessons
- Costume balls
- Cots
- Counselling
- Cowboy dances
- Cribbage
- Croquet
- Crossword puzzles
- Dark rooms
- Darts
- Date bureaus
- Debating
- Deep sea fishing
- Discussion groups
- Dominoes
- Door prizes
- Doughnut clubs
- Dramatic groups
- Dunking contests
- Easter prayers
- Employment advice
- Entertainments
- Etching
- Fashion shows
- Father's days
- Fellowship hours
- Fencing
- Financial Aid
- Fireside hours
- First Aid classes
- Fishing parties
- Flag Day celebrations
- Flower clubs
- Football
- Formal dances
- Fortune telling
- Forums
- Frame making
- Gardening
- Glee clubs
- Go-to-church groups
- Golf
- Group guidance
- Guest nights
- Gym classes
- Hair-styling classes
- Halloween parties
- Hamburger fries
- Hammocks
- Handball
- Handwriting analysis
- Harmonica contests
- Hay rides
- Health clinics
- Hikes
- History classes
- Hobby corner
- Hockey
- Home hospitality
- Home hours
- Horseback riding
- Horseshoe pitching
- Hospital visits
- Housing service
- Hula dances
- Hunting parties
- Hymn sings
- Hypnotism exhibitions
- Ice cream suppers
- Ice skating
- International groups
- Jam sessions
- Jiu jitsu instruction
- Joke telling contests
- Journalism study
- Juke box jamborees
- Kiddie checking
- Kitchen privileges
- Knick-knacks
- Knitting lessons
- Language classes
- Leathercraft
- Lectures
- Legal advice
- Library service
- Light lunches
- Linoleum carving
- Literary clubs
- Location of people
- Lost and found
- Magazines
- Magic and trick clubs
- Make-up instruction
- Marshmallow roasts
- Math lessons
- Medical assistance
- Mending service
- Miniature golf
- Minstrel shows
- Modeling
- Moonlight sails
- Mother's clubs
- Mother's days
- Movies
- Music lessons
- Musical instruments
- Musicales
- Nature study
- New Year's parties
- Newspapers
- News talks
- Nursery schools
- Nutrition study
- Oil painting study
- Outdoor dances
- Overnight lodgings
- Package wrapping
- Parties
- Phone home prizes
- Photo supplies
- Photography classes
- Photography clubs
- Pianos to play
- Picnics
- Picture puzzles
- Pin tail on donkey
- Planning honeymoons
- Ping pong
- Pinochle tourneys
- Plane trips
- Plaster casting
- Plastic moulding
- Play reading
- Poetry hours
- Pool
- Popularity contests
- Portrait sketching
- Pot luck suppers
- Pottery making
- Prayer books
- Pressing uniforms
- Puppets; Marionettes
- Public speaking
- Publicity classes
- Quiz programs
- Quoit games
- Radio making
- Radio shows
- Reading rooms
- Record making
- Recorded music
- Referrals to agencies
- Religious services
- Rest facilities
- Rhumba lessons
- Roller skating
- Rosaries, medals, etc.
- Round table talks
- Rowing machines
- Sailing
- Savings service
- Scavenger hunts
- Science classes
- Scrapbook service
- Sculpturing
- Sewing buttons
- Sewing chevrons
- Sewing instruction
- Shaving material
- Shell craft
- Shipping packages
- Shoe shine equipment
- Shooting
- Shorthand-typing
- Shopping trips
- Shower baths
- Shuffleboard
- Sightseeing tours
- Silhouette making
- Skee ball
- Skiing
- Sleigh rides
- Slide rule classes
- Snack bars
- Soft ball
- Song-guessing games
- Spaghetti feeds
- Speakers
- Special events
- Spelling bees
- Sports equipment
- Square dances
- Stainless steel work
- Stamp clubs
- Stunt nights
- Sunday breakfasts
- Supervised child play
- Surf fishing
- Swimming
- Swimming races
- Taffy pulls
- Tall story sessions
- Tap dance lessons
- Tennis
- Tournaments
- Thanksgiving dinners
- Town Hall forums
- Transportation aid
- Treasure hunts
- Twilight vespers
- Veteran information
- Vocal concerts
- Vocational films
- Volley ball
- Waffle shops
- Waltz nights
- Washing and ironing
- Water color painting
- Water polo
- Weaving
- Wedding arrangements
- Weight lifting
- Whist
- Wiener roasts
- Wood burning
- Wood carving
- Wood working
- Wrestling
- Writing paper
- Writing rooms

USO—"THE HOME AWAY FROM HOME"



MORNING . . . NOON . . . NIGHT . . .  
From a desert to a dance in one day!

## COMMUNITY COOPERATION

It is because individuals and organizations in a community cooperate in supporting and participating in USO activities that USO is able to render its multitude of services. Such cooperation ranges from the 1,970 community organizations working together to make the USO program possible in Detroit, Mich., and the 1,600 different groups cooperating in Los Angeles, to tiny hamlets like Pittsburg, Cal., whose 10,000 population has taken care of approximately 900,000 service men in its USO centers.

Community spirit rose to the emergency from the very start. There was Wendover Field, Utah . . . over 12 communities nearby furnished the building materials, equipment and manpower — with the aid of Air Forces personnel — to erect and put into operation a USO club in ONE DAY. To celebrate, they held a dance that same evening! (Pictures at left)

Another "one-day wonder" was San Jose's USO hospitality house, pictured below, with all materials donated and organized labor giving its services free.

Among countless other USO's offering going examples of what community spirit can achieve are Philadelphia's USO-Labor Plaza, built by labor contributed by AF of L and equipment from CIO, and, at Pittsburgh, Pa., the magnificent USO Variety Club Canteen, which came into existence through the cooperation of the trade unions and the chamber of commerce.





TRAMP . . . TRAMP . . . TRAMP . . . Such was the grinding wear of GI footgear on the floor of San Diego's Army & Navy Y.M.C.A.-USO Club, that the "ten-year" tile flooring had to be replaced in less than ONE year. Traffic in this club reached a new high in 1945 — just short of 8,000,000 for the year, or nearly equal to the total manpower in the Army of the United States as of V-E Day. Average DAILY attendance amounted to more than the war strength of an infantry division, two battleships, and a cruiser added together!

The other extreme may be found in big-city clubs that handled huge volumes of men, like Philadelphia's famous Benedict Club, where 30,000 men a month checked in for a night's sleep, a shower, swim, meal, game or dance. Or Honolulu's five-story downtown club that uses a ton of bananas and 250 gallons of ice cream every day for banana splits alone, and where one man is kept busy all day long doing nothing but breaking eggs.

In the big cities the question was how to keep a lonesome service man from getting lost among the crowds of local citizenry. In places like Jacksonville, N. C., where the population is 873 and the Marines

from Camp LeJeune ran up a total of 90,260 visits to the USO club last August alone . . . in such places, the question often was how to keep the town from getting lost among the service men.

### *For Troops in Transit*

Since the inception of USO, some 19,500,000 individual services have been given by 181 USO Travelers Aid Service units which have operated at some time during this period. Peak month was July 1944, when 136 units gave 661,000 services, almost twice as many as 115 units in December 1945.



"Call me at 12—" registers PM 3/c Walter Babcock of Haverstraw, N. Y., seeking a few hours' sleep at the Syracuse USO transit lounge.



(At right) Sea-legs get their bearings when the Atlantic City Travelers Aid charts the right course for this Navy father and his family.

Also at transportation terminals and junctions are the USO Troops-in-Transit lounges. Since Pearl Harbor, more than 70,000,000 attendances have been registered. Of this total more than one-third — 28½ million — were clocked during 1945. Attendance has doubled in many spots since V-J Day. Tentative figures show December 1945 to be the peak month, with close to 3 million service men and women using the 145 lounges. Unchallenged champion is the lounge in Pennsylvania Station, New York City, with a record of more than 5½ million visits. Even the lounge with the smallest attendance has served nine thousand service men and women in two and a half years.

Coffee, doughnuts and cigarettes, an easy chair, are the first demands of troops in transit as they pass through USO lounges on their way home, on pass, or just waiting to catch a bus back to camp. There is an endless procession night and day; they read magazines and newspapers, play a radio or phonograph, eat, rest, work jig-saws, play chess and checkers; are given tickets free for movies and radio broadcasts.

Relatives are a large part of the scene too: the mother and father who want to wait four hours in the lounge to see their son; the soldier's wife and baby with no place to sleep; the distressed father who came 1,500 miles to see his son, but doesn't know what company or camp the boy is in; the mother whose son boarded a train for the West Coast an hour before she arrived.

### Clubs-on-Wheels

Up to December 31, 1945, men and women in the armed forces were the recipients of some form of Mobile Service in 50,000,000 instances.

By the end of 1945, visits by mobile units to armed force installations of all kinds averaged 3,775 a month and the number of service people being served monthly was 548,000. Materials distributed during the last six months of 1945 exceeded 6,000,000 USO envelopes and postcards, 60,000 religious articles, 36,000 books, 150,000 magazines, 78,000 games and (greatly needed) 1,944,000 books of matches.

Aside from the usual first-run movies, dances, recorded shows, radio, games and such, mobile unit workers did some odd things: sponsored a possum hunt, taught GI's in the jungles how to tell poisonous snakes from harmless reptiles, assisted an Army searching party hunting a crashed blimp, served coffee and cigarettes to service men fighting forest fires, gave movie shows in a Navy fire-crash boat, hauled firewood for miles to USO clubs, chopped Christmas trees, taught service men and women how to ski, skate, swim and fish.

Inaugurated to serve troops on maneuvers and isolated garrisons and outposts, this service has already been cut more than 50% and for some time has been confined largely to service to the Coast Guard and to the American guards at prisoner of war locations. This work will be further reduced speedily, and probably terminated this year.



(Above left) In the Skagway, Alaska, USO, Mrs. Fred Nord's chevron-sewing skill brings "a touch of home" to Corp. Benito Trevino of Kansas City, Mo.



(Above right) On the roof of one of Manila's six USO clubs, above the war-scarred city, two GI's chat with Filipino junior hostesses.

### **USO Overseas**

As men and women of the Army and Navy were scattered over the islands and various countries of the Western hemisphere, USO followed. Its Overseas units put up the familiar red-white-blue USO club sign in Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, Newfoundland, Bermuda, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad, Canal Zone, various Caribbean Islands, Brazil, isolated spots along the coast of South America, and the Philippines.

The Army, Navy and Marines were in strange lands. They were lonely; they were homesick; they wanted something to do and think about when off duty. To meet these needs USO had a peak total of 178 Overseas units operating. As millions of men returned home, the number of Overseas units was reduced until at the end of 1945 there were 144 going. Even with men being redeployed and discharged, the 1945 overseas attendance figures showed an average of 3,000,000 monthly.

In some overseas areas entertainment started with hurriedly assembled variety shows, and developed into real entertainment units of GI and junior hostess talent. Those who couldn't sing or act constructed stage settings, served as carpenters and electricians.

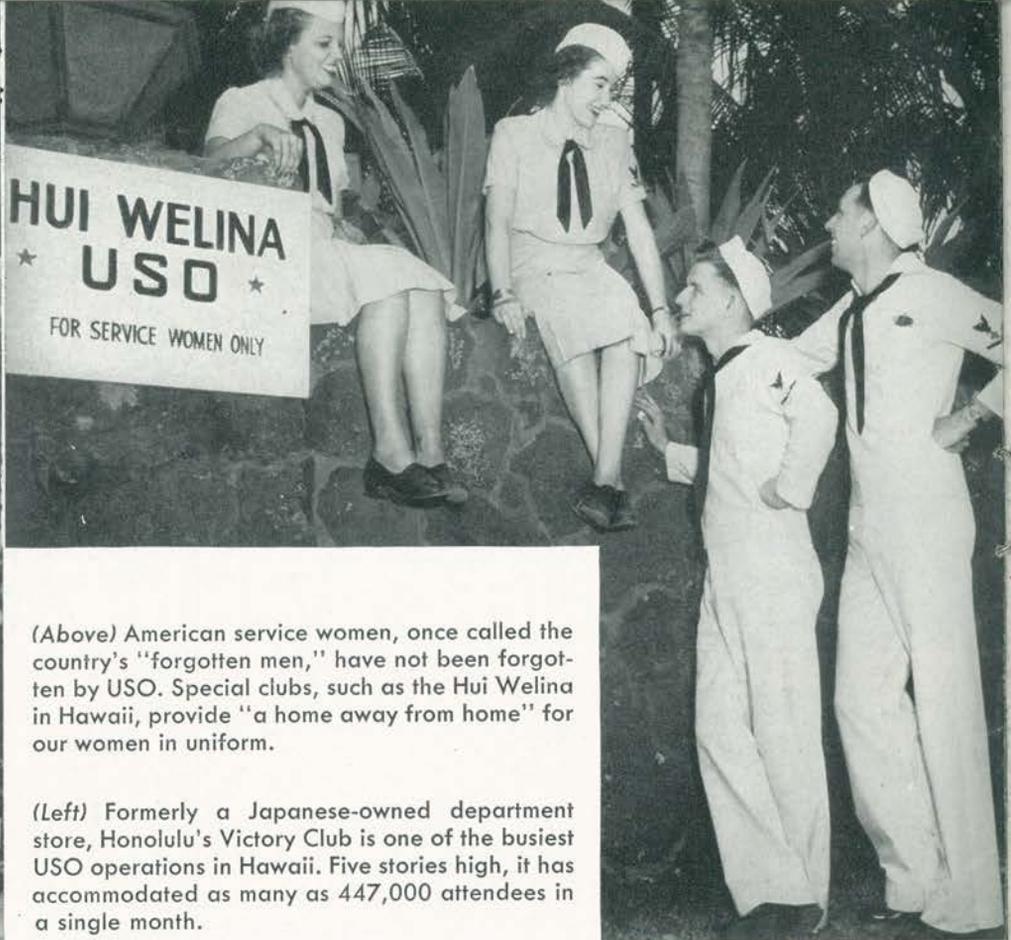
The most extensive USO Overseas club operation was in the Hawaiian Islands, where every Pacific fighting man landed at one time or another. At peak, there were 76 such clubs and services in operation. At the end of 1945, 27 of these clubs and units remained open. All but 12 clubs planned to close by December 1946.

In Hawaii, USO was given six weeks early in 1945 to erect two clubs for the Fifth Marines, on their way back from Iwo Jima. The Army, Navy and Seabees pitched in. When the transports arrived, the clubs were ready.

For sustained operations, the list is led by the pier-side shows given on both sides of the Canal Zone to "floating audiences" of soldiers, sailors and marines — a 24-hour-a-day schedule, seven days for five weeks. None of these men could leave their ships. They sat or stood or swung over the rails, life-boats and masts. They hung from stanchions and shouted and whistled, applauding the untiring efforts of amateur and professional show people.

One of the most thrilling and exhaustive services performed by USO, with able assistance from Red Cross, Army-Navy and local volunteers was in the Zone after V-E Day. Official word came that nearly one million men would be coming through the Canal — battle weary, redeployed troops — American troops on the way to the Pacific. The services of the Cristobal USO Club were commandeered by General George Brett, who erected a barricade to keep out everyone except troops from Europe. The Army even chopped six windows out of the club walls to make room to feed the men; here alone more than 100,000 men were served.

In other places in the Zone food and coffee were served and entertainment devised for more than half a million men. Even two transports full of Canadian and Australian troops, all of whom had been war prisoners for at least four years, were welcome. Army



(Above) American service women, once called the country's "forgotten men," have not been forgotten by USO. Special clubs, such as the Hui Welina in Hawaii, provide "a home away from home" for our women in uniform.

(Left) Formerly a Japanese-owned department store, Honolulu's Victory Club is one of the busiest USO operations in Hawaii. Five stories high, it has accommodated as many as 447,000 attendees in a single month.

hangars were taken over. Some hostesses and entertainers worked 20 hours a day. There were continuous movie shows. With V-J Day, the process reversed itself and USO pitched in and granted every possible wish of 150,000 sailors and marines coming home from the Pacific.

### *Clubs in the Philippines*

General MacArthur's first concern on liberating the Philippines was for clubs where the tired fighting men could rest and relax. But Manila was a tragic city, just dust, shelled and blown-up buildings, piles of rubble. Batangas was another devastated area and so was Taal. Quickly buildings were rebuilt or patched up; some materials shipped from the States and Hawaii; USO personnel flown in. Finally ten clubs, some of them makeshift, most of them windowless and doorless with walls pock-marked by shell-fire, were in operation. At least there were chairs, coffee, hot dogs, some ice cream and movies.

The clubs were jammed with service men immediately. Four hours after one club had opened, its Stateside Hometown Register had 750 registrants, with every state in the Union represented. Attendance for December alone totalled 643,000 for nine of the ten clubs in operation.

In other outposts GI's were taught languages — Spanish, Tagalog, Portuguese, native dialects. In Natal, Brazil, 5,000 to 7,000 eggs (sometimes with bacon) were served weekly in two USO Clubs. GI's stationed on the Amazon River were taken up river by boat so they could swim in unpolluted waters. Alligator hunting parties in native boats (kayucas) was a pastime in Cristobal, C. Z.

Service men in Newfoundland learned "squidjigging" — dropping a heavy fish line with large hook and a weight and bringing in cod, which they cooked at USO. A unit of entertainers was flown by plane to Galapagos Island. The GI's, each with a pet goat sitting at his side, watched the show in the rain for three hours. Gold-panning trips were held in Alaska. GI's in Brazil learned all about rubber plantations.

It has already been possible to effect radical reductions in USO operations in Brazil, the Antilles, Panama and Hawaii. So far as we know now, there will remain through 1947 two important clubs in Alaska, two in Newfoundland, two in Bermuda, three in Puerto Rico, two in Cuba, one in Trinidad, six in Panama, eight in Hawaii and ten or more in the Philippines.

Cold statistics can actually paint a glowing picture: — during the four years (1942-45) of overseas



**"WANTED AT ONCE:  
100 Japanese-American Hostesses"**

That was the S.O.S. sent out by the Nyack, N. Y., USO Club, when a contingent of Nisei troops stopped in for their final leave before shipping out. Nyack wanted to give them a farewell party.

Within a few hours, 112 girls were on their way from New York City and, as the pictures show, the party was a success. "A grand time and some swell memories," wrote Pvt. George Inai, one of the soldiers. "We're on our way now and hope to return soon."

Yes, these men were on their way — as replacements for the badly shot-up 100th Infantry Battalion. You've heard about the famous 100th Battalion . . . Of the 1,200 Japanese-American doughboys in the outfit, 1,000 earned the Purple Heart, 44 the Silver Star, 31 the Bronze Star, 9 the Distinguished Service Cross and 3 the Legion of Merit Medal! . . . the same fighting unit that came forward with the first contributions to the National War Fund in Hawaii, when the men were in training there.



operations for all activities, attendance was checked at 104,819,151.

### *For Service Women and Service Wives*

"I'd just be lost without the USO," said a young wife in Dover, Delaware, attending an Army wives luncheon. Her companions echoed her statement. This group, one of many throughout the country, prepared a weekly get-together luncheon. While they congregated in the dining room, their babies slept in a row of perambulators in the club lobby. During the war years, many women who wished to keep their families together followed their husbands to camp towns and ports of embarkation. Some settled there temporarily, some permanently, waiting and hoping for their husbands' return. Others have joined their men at posts where they are scheduled for lengthy duty.

In all these cases the wives have been able to look to USO for the only recreation and companionship they could receive in a strange town. Help with travel planning, information on housing, play-pens for children, arts and crafts classes, discussion groups, layette clubs, and the development of other social groups, has been the tangible contribution to wives of men in the service.

From the Nyack, N. Y., USO "Chins Up!" Club to the "Foreign Legion" group in the South — whose members were all wives of service men overseas — to the "Ladies-in-waiting Club" of Albuquerque, New

Mexico, and the "Heirborne Division" of the Rockingham, N. C. USO, young wives have found companionship and courage in the company of other wives living under the same strained and temporary conditions of wartime.

Today they are benefiting from the USO educational program for wives. Materials sent from USO are used for discussion groups to help the young wife to understand her husband and herself, and to plan intelligently for making or rebuilding a home. And these special USO services are valued by the men as well.

"Just one glimpse of flowered wallpaper is enough to make me feel at home." This longing cry of a young Wac, living with thousands of others in military barracks, typifies the contribution the USO makes to women in uniform. In special clubhouses in Washington, Seattle, Los Angeles, Hawaii and other places, and in special rooms gaily decorated with flowered wallpaper and chintz curtains, and with cosmetic bars and lots of space for washing and ironing, USO tries to make a place for homelike living for young service women off-duty.

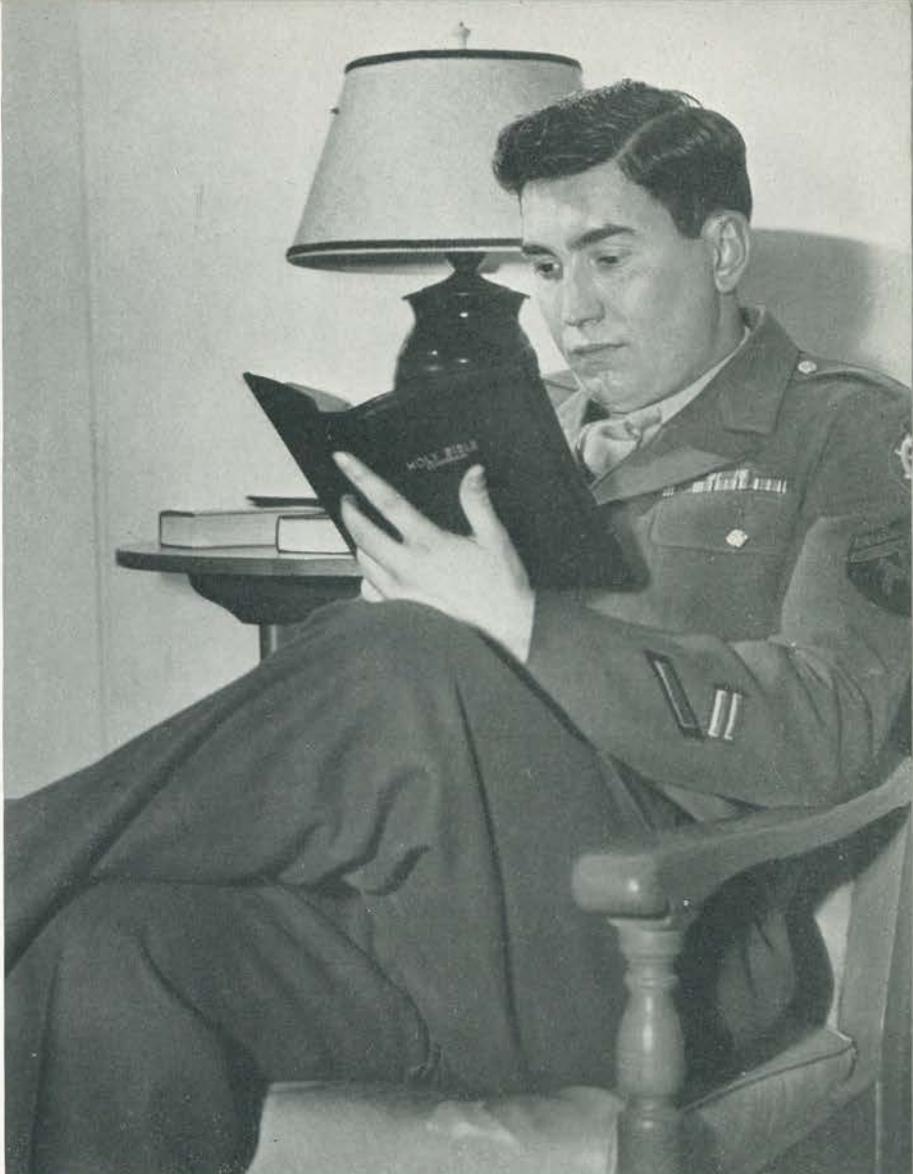
### *USO and War Production*

During wartime USO services in some 200 industrial communities helped maintain the morale of men and women working in the great war plants and living in dangerously over-crowded boom towns.



(At right) Religious and educational activities receive the same emphasis in USO clubs as they do in the average American home. Here, at a USO in Taunton, Mass., Cpl. T/5 George Eiff, stationed at Camp Miles Standish, devotes some of his off-duty time to the reading of the Scriptures.

(Below, left) This Well-Baby Clinic at the former industrial USO club in Buchanan, Mich., shows interracial harmony in action. Red, white and black are the colors of the smiling faces pictured here. As changing needs cause the withdrawal of operations from certain areas, USO frequently finds that its work is carried on by the community itself. Such was the case in Buchanan, whose citizens saw in the facilities established by USO a valuable social legacy.



Recreation at USO cooking classes and teas, community sports programs, arts and crafts work, "state night" parties helped to offset the fatigue and loneliness of newcomers in war plant communities. Actual program costs were largely assumed by the war workers themselves.

USO provided for the whole family unit — not just for the working members alone. San Diego's USO organized the Junior Commandos to take care of the natural exuberance of lively youngsters. Buchanan, Mich., had a baby clinic at the USO. Services such as these were multiplied many times over.

Atomic bomb workers managed to relieve some of the pressure of work and strain of complete isolation and secrecy, thanks to recreation facilities provided by USO in two major construction areas near Knoxville, Tenn., and Pasco, Wash.

With the war won, USO decided that its industrial work should properly be transferred to local responsi-

bility. With the exception of several cases directly concerned with civilian employees of the Army and Navy themselves, this withdrawal will be complete by the end of this month, February, 1946.

### *Interracial Service*

USO has consistently adhered to its primary purpose of serving men and women in uniform irrespective of creed or race. Its service to minority groups, and particularly to Negroes has steadily improved. Our insistence upon equivalent services for all has resulted in better relationships, not only with the men and women in service but with communities as well.

### *Educational and Religious Activities*

Aside from the professional entertainers of Camp Shows and the clerical and maintenance staffs, the mainspring of all USO service has been the relatively small nucleus of 3,000 professional workers. Nearly

all of these have come from fields closely akin to USO, nearly all of them have graduated from intensive basic orientation courses, and all have been kept in continuous touch with developments through Training Conferences and Staff Institutes. In 1945, 37 Regional Institutes and Refresher Courses were conducted in spite of transportation difficulties. There is of course a complete program of instruction and education for the volunteers. With the end of the war and with the return of hundreds of thousands of service men to civilian life, greater stress is now being placed upon rehabilitation education. Information is offered to service men on all topics currently in their thinking — schools, vocations, trade and business opportunities, the GI Bill of Rights, — most of the work being carried on through clinics conducted by community experts. In support of these projects, the USO and its six member agencies have published or distributed more than 200 different booklets and pamphlets on educational and religious subjects.

All of the clubs have continued to carry on religious programs, and many — where churches are unavailable — conducted services, hymn sings, Bible classes, and religious discussion groups, more than 70,000 religious programs having been recorded in the past twelve months. The Salvation Army itself functions practically as a religious denomination. The YMCA has had a permanent staff of Protestant ministers engaged in developing closer cooperation with community churches and camp chaplains. Both the NCCS and the JWB have supplied important auxiliary chaplain service, where men of those faiths are not in sufficient numbers to warrant having their own Army or Navy chaplain. In such cases, the USO has paid no salaries but has covered the cost of rendering the service.

The member agencies have continued to supply literature of the three faiths, and some 20,000,000 religious articles have been annually distributed here and overseas. During the year 1945 alone, more than 55,000 pocket testaments and Bibles were issued by YMCA, The Salvation Army and YWCA; 500,000 mezuzahs and 300,000 abridged prayer books were distributed by the National Jewish Welfare Board. Since the inception of USO, the National Catholic Community Service has furnished some 4,000,000 medals and crucifixes, and some 3,750,000 rosaries. Men coming out of battle with literally nothing have been supplied with fundamental religious articles.

### THREE LETTERS:

*From a flier overseas —*

"Nothing has boosted our morale so much as the good laugh we had."

*From a GI service publication —*

"The curtain went down and the GI went down the street thanking somebody for bringing him this bit of America, this wonderful land he calls his own."

*From a sister —*

"My brother . . . says . . . it is so terribly lonely there that many of the fellows would have cracked up long ago if it weren't for the occasional diversion provided by the USO-Camp Shows."

## USO-CAMP SHOWS

THE American service man was in the open desert and in the dense jungle; in the frigid Arctic, and the Persian Gulf with the thermometer at 120 degrees. Yet to most of those places the troupers of USO-Camp Shows were sent to do their work — to give shows for the service people. Maybe the show consisted of an accordion player, or a unit of five variety performers, or it might have been a complete musical comedy cast, chorus and all.

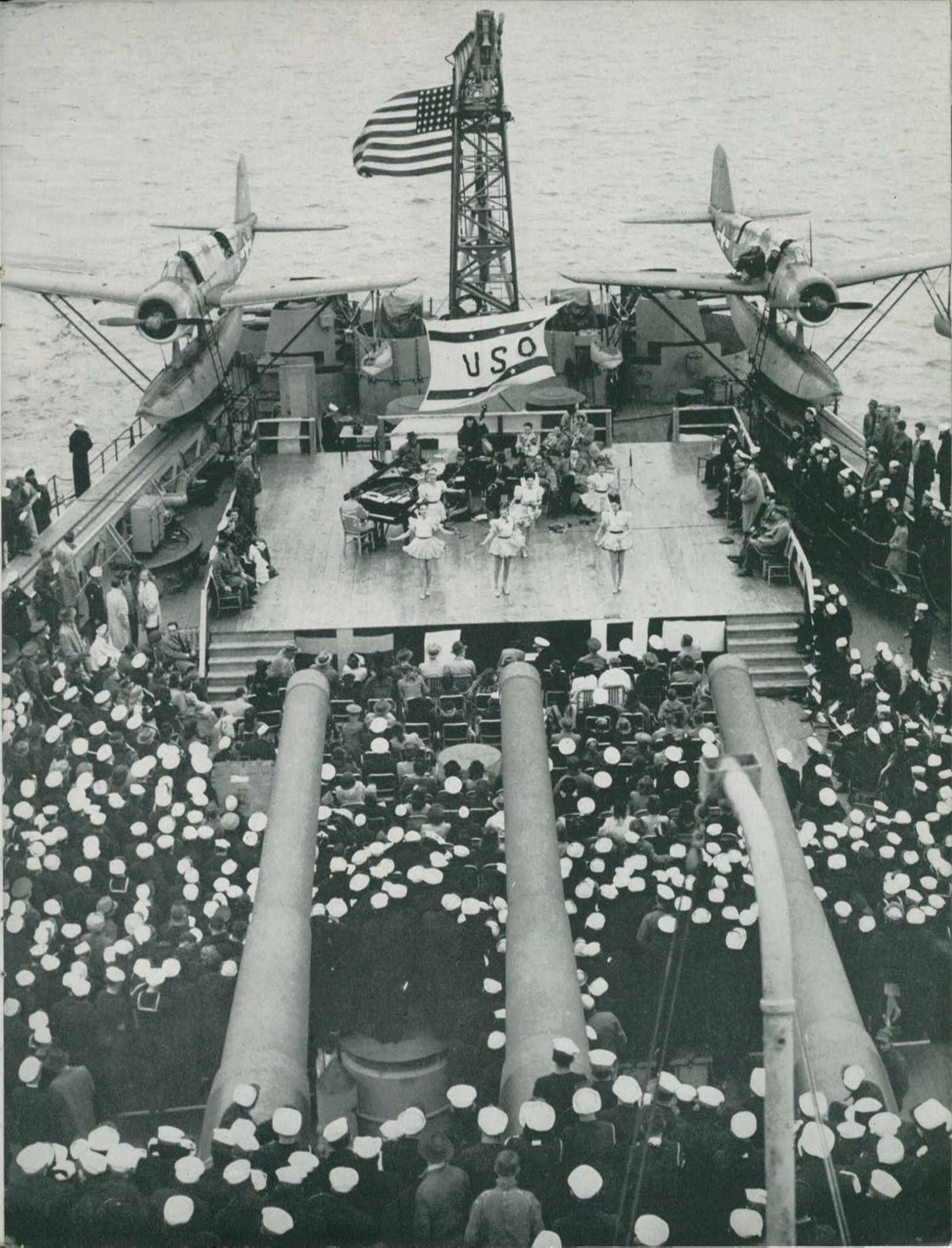
The USO-Camp Shows people performed in training camps, and they put on shows within 500 yards of the fighting lines. They traveled by jeeps and peeps, by trucks and ducks, by tank and weapon carrier; by plane over the hump into China; in small boats through ocean storms to isolated beachheads and island outposts. They went to find the soldier, sailor and marine who was doing the fighting.

In Italy once a whole show unit took official time out to undertake at its own risk a visit too perilous for official assignment. This was to a small town held at the moment by Americans, but which had changed hands five times in as many weeks. The men fairly cried with joy at the very sight of the troupe.

USO-Camp Shows played or sang on stages of all kinds, from packing cases and truck platforms to the most famous European opera house. One play at Cape Gloucester in the South Pacific was presented on a 12 x 12 platform lighted by pocket flashlights. Another show was staged on the deck of a warship under searchlights of a nearby destroyer.

When the Clipper plane crashed in Lisbon harbor in 1943 one USO-Camp Show girl died, five were saved. Two of these went right along with their show

(At right) The deck of the USS North Carolina, anchored in Boston Harbor, made a fine stage-setting for USO entertainers during Navy Day week last October.





Gertrude Briefer danced in Newfoundland hospitals, Australian rest camps and Persian desert stations, running up enough mileage to circle the world six times.



USO entertainers even traveled by breeches buoy. Johnny Gill of Novelaires troupe is swung aboard an LST grounded off Leghorn, Italy.



Men of the 44th Tank Battalion, during a lull in their operations in southern Luzon, enjoy a field show brought right up to the front.

schedule, the other three went back to shows for the service men just as soon as they were out of hospitals. In all, 17 Camp Shows performers were killed on duty.

More than 4,900 entertainers went overseas in more than 700 units scheduled for tours lasting from three weeks to six months or more.

### *700 Shows a Day*

These troupers gave more than 300,000 performances overseas and in the United States, and at the time of peak action in 1945 **THE CURTAIN WAS RISING ON 700 SHOWS A DAY** for the benefit of service personnel. The shows have played to audiences totalling 172,886,314.

Regardless of this figure, many of our service men and women never saw a USO-Camp Show, due to the sheer limitation in the number of performers available, the vastness of the theater of war and insurmountable transportation difficulties.

Amazing mileage records were set up by some of the performers. One tap dancer covered 150,000 miles in eight overseas trips of 23 months; other show people went 100,000 miles in less than two years. They ate with the soldiers; sometimes they served them at mess; they sat and talked about home, helping break the grip of tragedy, or fatigue, or the loneliness and boredom of isolated lookout and guard posts.

One unit in the Pacific landed on an island to find that the soldiers knew just how many performers there were and had figured to the second that each soldier could sit and talk with an entertainer exactly three minutes by stop-watch.

Stark drama followed some of the artists. One singer in a hospital near the Anzio beachhead was hailed by a soldier: "Will you sing for me? . . . I'm going to die. Will you sing 'Abide with Me' at my funeral?" Two days later, in the rain on Anzio beach, she fulfilled her promise.

No amusement organization in the world ever produced so many shows so quickly, and sent them with so little loss of time to places where they were so badly needed.

On the Normandy beachhead a show troupe of 43 men and women landed as soon as the beach was secured. Two hours later they gave a two-hour show and then moved forward toward the front lines to give repeat performances.

Other USO-Camp Shows followed our troops into 42 different countries and dozens of islands. The

troops never knew whether they were to hear a Metropolitan Opera star, or get a song and dance act; whether it was to be the "Foxhole Ballet" or "Oklahoma" or Shakespeare.

Camp Shows were not limited to theatrical entertainment. The sports world contributed champions in baseball, football, tennis and practically every sport.

### Expansion After Victory

By early 1945 USO-Camp Shows was functioning on a tremendous scale. It seemed like the maximum output. But then came V-E Day, and the program doubled . . . V-J Day a few months later and the program doubled once more!

With cessation of fighting in Europe had come a call for "delivery at the earliest possible moment of all the entertainment that can be provided." Within 90 days 60 new entertainment units composed of 665 entertainers were assembled, produced, tried out, and shipped to Europe.

Hardly had USO-Camp Shows officials recovered, when V-J Day came, and with it an even bigger entertainment order:

The Army and Navy wanted 86 additional units for the Pacific, totalling 1,205 persons, all to be sent within 90 days! *And they were.*

In the view of military authorities, any curtailment of Camp Shows programs "would in all probability be a serious blow to troop morale," to quote a War Department memorandum dated December 7, 1945 — exactly four years after Pearl Harbor. "The men in the Philippines (Manila *not* excepted), Guam, Kwajalein, Saipan, Okinawa and other island bases are particularly in need of this kind of entertainment," according to the memorandum.

To illustrate the need in the Japanese occupation area, the War Department report continues:

"The writer happened to be in Sasebo a few days later when (Danny) Kaye and (Leo) Durocher gave their single performance before the Marines of the Fifth Amphibious Corps at that Japanese city. This show had three times been postponed by one day because Kaye and Durocher were literally stolen by entertainment starved units on their way down from Tokyo and obliged to put on completely unscheduled shows at these installations. Incidentally, this show had been the object of similar piracies at every point at which their plane put down between Honolulu and Manila — further evidence of the acute entertainment starvation so prevalent throughout the Pacific."



On a stage mounted on two trucks backed together, and protected by camouflage net, Jessica Lee danced for an armored unit just behind the lines in France.



Life was 1/3 hoofing, 1/3 truck travel and 1/3 living out of helmets for Dolly Reckless and Mary Carnevale, trouping in Europe a month after D-Day.



F.P.A., John Kieran and Clifton Fadiman of "Information Please!" went GI and washed their own mess kits at the enlisted men's dish-laundry overseas.



In the rain and slimy mud of Luzon, "the Fighting 32nd" stood for hours



to see and hear and laugh, when a USO-Camp Shows unit hit their base.

### *The Hospital Circuit*

Meanwhile, USO-Camp Shows was expanding its Hospital Circuit. By the end of October, 1945, a cumulative audience total of 3,372,000 in 192 separate hospitals had been entertained through 15,360 auditorium and ward performances.

Their beneficial effect on patients has drawn many letters of commendation from Army and Navy doctors. One interesting example of physical aid came when a little comedienne was singing to a ward full of injured men. When her last note died away a young boy suffering from nervous paralysis forgot he couldn't use his arms, and applauded vigorously.

Beginning March 1st USO-Camp Shows will also provide regular entertainment in Veterans Administration Hospitals, of which there are now 97 in operation, and many more due to be opened soon. General Omar N. Bradley requested this extension of Camp Shows schedule in order to provide veterans with "suitable entertainment as a means of speeding their recovery."

### *Hospital Sketching*

The Hospital Sketching program is one phase of hospital work, started in April, 1944, and reaching a peak during 1945. More than 180 illustrators and

The Navy pipes down while Larry Adler pipes up! . . . at Fleet Hospital 107, New Caledonia.



portrait painters have done some 36,164 sketches of wounded service men.

Doctors discovered that this activity had great medical and therapeutic value and frequently contributed to the patient's recovery.

The original picture drawn in the hospital ward, together with negative and positive photostats, are sent free of charge to whoever is designated by the person sketched.

Often the artists are told — "Don't draw me the way I am now. Draw me nice for Mom so she'll know I'm all right."

Treasured possessions are these hospital portraits

— especially in those homes where gold stars are substituted for blue.

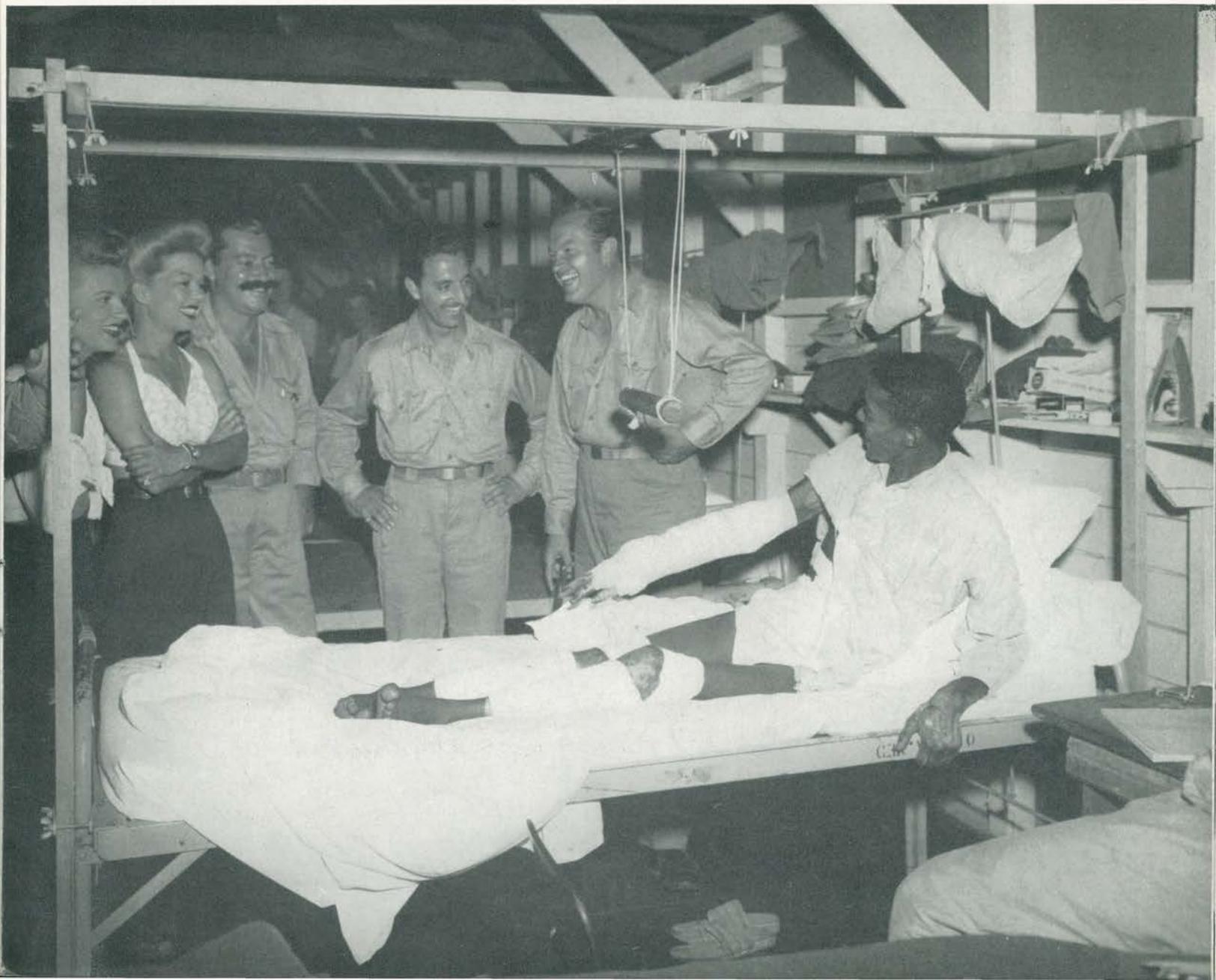
## CONVALESCENT SERVICES

ONE of the most vital jobs for USO is with the war casualties.

There are 527 USO clubs located near 168 military and naval hospitals. These clubs, which originally provided a link between home and military service, are now frequently the convalescent veteran's first contact with the normal life of the civilian community.

In these clubs there has been considerable adaptation of program, since different disabilities created

Bob Hope and his gang are sharing a laugh in the 122nd Station Hospital, New Hebrides.





(Left)

Private Jimmy Cohen of New York City grins for two reasons: No. 1, he's back in the U. S. after going through France, Ardennes, The Bulge; No. 2, he has been joined by his son, David Lee Cohen, aged two, at the Atlantic City USO.

(Right)

Many a wounded veteran learns that his disability need not cut him off irrevocably from normal civilian life. Here a soldier and Junior Hostess Lucille Massa play Chinese checkers at a Battle Creek, Mich., club outside Percy Jones Army General Hospital.



different types of needs. For example, in a USO club serving a hospital for blinded men, the furniture must always be placed in exactly the same place. And for amputees, USO club directors must see to it that they are not segregated, but are mixed with others in small groups; that the lighting of the rooms is subdued; that there are comfortable chairs and couches available, that if, for example, the activity is a dance it is cabaret style with small tables and chairs around; that slow music is played; and specially trained junior hostesses are provided. Self-confidence is encouraged; self-consciousness dispelled.

Service wives have moved into these clubs in full force and frequently volunteer as hostesses. The Army encourages wives of hospitalized veterans to come and live nearby during the period of convalescence. They help bridge the gap between military and civilian life. Incidentally, this adds to the USO club load. It has become commonplace to find service wives in the club kitchen making up baby's formula or practicing on their cooking.

## VOLUNTEERS

FROM the beginning, USO has been essentially a volunteer organization. Not only was this the deliberate design of USO, but it also was essential, if the

organization was to discharge its responsibility of providing a channel by which many thousands of patriotic civilians would participate in the total war effort.

Before the United States became involved in the war, about 25,000 volunteers were on duty in the various clubs, lounges and allied activities. So great was expansion after the United States entered the war that the volunteer peak in June, 1943, found nearly thirty times as many volunteers registered—739,000 to be exact. Today's figure is about half a million.

The greatest number of people offered their time and services to USO at the very time when the manpower shortage in American industry was greatest. Many worked a full day or night at a war industry, and then put in many hours at USO work.

This service by volunteers ranged all the way from the charwoman who came to one club every Sunday morning to polish the tableware, to that of Governors, bank presidents and industrial leaders who served at snack bars or helped with personal advice.

A widow who sells baked goods from a wagon all week taught service parties the art of sailing every Sunday on her sloop and an apparel shop manager turns out hundreds of pancakes every Wednesday night at a Chicago club. One USO volunteer arranges weddings and receptions for the girls who come out to be



married to their sweethearts at a nearby base. Another has plucked well over a thousand uniformed wall-flowers from the wall by teaching them how to dance. Individual "specialist" workers have run up such astronomical accomplishments as processing 81,399 crossword puzzles for enjoyment overseas, mixing 12,000 waffles and baking 92,532 cookies.

Volunteer service has changed and grown with the emergency. In the first USO days, the club and other work was comparatively simple. Food for snack bars, music for dances, girls for partners; comforts such as a place to sit and read, or write, or talk; showers with plenty of soap and towels. These met the great needs of the time.

The year 1945 saw a great change in USO service. Men began returning from the war. Some were not wounded; others were. They needed more than a dance and a glass of milk. They required a more personalized service, more attention to their individual needs.

So the USO volunteers were trained to meet this situation. More and more time was devoted to indi-

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Putting the gleam of welcome on the door of a USO club, Mrs. Harry Truman adds another hour to her USO service record. The First Lady is one of Washington's most faithful volunteer workers. The morning after V-J Day she was busy at work in the club's kitchen frying eggs.

Serving 489,664 sandwiches in three years, senior hostesses at USO railway canteen of Danville, Ill. (population 37,000) recorded some gastronomical statistics . . . 32,276 loaves of bread, 6,425 pounds of cheese and 1,539 gallons of peanut butter were used in the sandwiches they made.



vidual talks, conferences and suggestions. More serious opportunities were offered, such as classes in arts and crafts; "quiet" rooms for men who enjoyed classical music recordings; group discussions on current events, veterans' rights and business opportunities.

### *Convalescent Care*

Convalescent men began coming to USO clubs, and they too had a special need. The staffs and senior and junior hostesses in more than 500 clubs near general hospitals were taught to overlook physical handicaps; to avoid asking questions which might offend a service man sensitive to the fact his wounds might keep him from normal living.

Discharged service men and women, who had enjoyed USO clubs and other activities when in uniform,

(Above, right)

Almost every USO club in the country has one woman simply known as "Ma" to the boys. In the Philadelphia JWB-USO, "Ma" is Mrs. Israel Goldstein.

The marines at Ft. Mifflin, down the river from Philadelphia, first gave her the title when she adopted the little-known ammunition base because it was overlooked by most organizations. Ma does things like that. In return, the marines adopted her — they get her down there every year to cut the Marine Corps birthday cake.

She first served service men in the years after World War I, when she entertained and visited in the wards of the Philadelphia Naval Hospital. Now, on the board of the JWB-USO, Ma Goldstein plans and attends about fifteen parties a month at nearby and not-so-near bases and hospitals. That's equivalent to one every other night, and it's just a minimum. She also chauffeurs service parties, distributes gifts on holidays and works in the canteen itself every Saturday and Sunday night. The USO 5000-hour pin she earned is in addition to civilian defense and Red Cross service awards.

(Right)

Birmingham's Mrs. Myrtle Feeney reports for volunteer work at the YMCA-USO Club every night at 6 p.m. This allows her a quick dinner after her eight-hour day behind a department-store glove counter, before she checks in for her five-hour stint at the club checkroom and snack bar. On holidays and vacations, she is on duty at the USO twelve hours a day, and she doesn't miss a day.

Mrs. Feeney, who volunteered in December 1941, and has had continuous charge of the checking and snack bar hostesses ever since, has recently completed her 8,860th hour of USO service.





Former Staff Sergeant George G. Fallick liked an Atlantic City USO club so much he came back after discharge, as a volunteer worker. Here he is checking Pfc. Harry L. Ginsberg's blouse at the club. Both men are from the Bronx, New York City.

are now expressing their appreciation by serving as volunteers themselves, helping relieve the wartime volunteers and staff workers.

In the five years of USO, 165,000,000 hours have been recorded by its volunteers. Hundreds of them have given 5,000 hours or more each to his work, with occasional reports showing 8,000 hours, 10,000 and higher records of service.

Young and old participate in volunteer service. There are those who serve on committees; senior hosts and hostesses, snack bar workers and office aides; those who perform such special services as sewing on buttons or chevrons, managing check rooms, planning entertainment, giving information; the leaders in arts and crafts classes, dramatics, forums, music discussions and athletic activities.

There are the junior hostesses, who spend long hours dancing; who organize picnics or swimming parties; who are trained not to look for romance in USO clubs, but to be gracious and charming to all; who make the clubs places of fun and good fellowship.

And there are youngsters who also find useful things to do — boys, who empty ash trays, help in check rooms, or run errands; girls, who make cookies and candy, wash dishes and help in many other ways to relieve older sisters and mothers.

As much as the USO is indebted to its volunteers, rarely have they in turn failed to express their appreciation of this opportunity to give voluntary service. Take the case of one mother in an upstate New York

community whose son was killed. She came to a USO club and offered to do something behind the scene, like washing dishes, because she did not feel like meeting people, yet wanted to do something for the boys and girls in service. Wash dishes she did, for nearly a whole year, until suddenly she found she was not alone. She WAS with people. She WAS talking with other women. She had come out of her emptiness and loneliness through service.

The story of the USO volunteer has become one of the more thrilling chapters in the history of cooperation between American races, creeds and groups.

## AFTER V-J DAY

**I**N THE five months since V-J Day, USO has been going through a period of reconversion. There have been drastic changes in the quantity, character and location of the operations.

The USO programs have had to keep in tune with the whole demobilization program of the Army and Navy. Fully half of the men and women in the Armed Forces have been discharged, but over 6,000,000 are still in service, and new inductees are going into service every day.

In many communities club attendance figures, instead of going down, have reached new highs since V-J Day. This has been true particularly on the Pacific coast, where each month's attendance in one city alone has increased by 160,000.

There are two principal reasons for this. In the first place, it is obvious that the faster the rate of discharge the more men there are in separation centers and on the move across the country. Secondly, there is a liberalized policy in granting passes and furloughs to a greatly increased proportion of the men. As a result, a given club may experience a greater load from a camp now accommodating 10,000 service men than it previously received from the same camp when it was filled to the maximum capacity of 50,000.

## THE FUTURE OF USO

**T**HE TIME has come to give a definite answer to the question, "When will the USO consider its wartime mission accomplished and terminate its operations?"

The American people themselves, whose sons and daughters the USO has served, who have contributed \$200,000,000 towards its support, have the right to know how much longer the USO will operate and how much further financing will therefore be needed.

The Army and Navy require the answer in order to



USO-sponsored Home Hospitality does much to help restore self-confidence and ease of social contact to the wounded veterans at Newton D. Baker General Hospital, Martinsburg, W. Va. Here a group of Purple Heart heroes are tackling a sumptuous turkey dinner at the country farm of Dr. and Mrs. H. S. Whitacre. Almost every Sunday the Whitacres, in cooperation with the Martinsburg USO Club, welcome a GI contingent at their "country USO."



At Zamboanga, Mindanao, in the Philippines, service men crowd around the platform and even perch on the bamboo stockade when Joe E. Brown comes to town with USO-Camp Shows.

plan completely for the tasks of occupation, hospital care, demobilization, and peacetime military and naval operation.

The USO itself, and its six member agencies, need to know in order to administer effectively and economically the liquidation of a complex and international structure of staff, equipment and plant.

And finally, the question is of major personal interest to at least half a million USO volunteers — men and women in every State and in overseas territories whose selfless and never-ending labors have been the essence of the USO as the service man's "home away from home."

As yet, it is of course impossible to say with any degree of assurance or finality how long the "USO" type of service should be continued, how that function should be fulfilled in a peacetime world, under what precise auspices the work should be done, or how it may most advantageously be financed.

These questions cannot be answered until the Army and Navy are themselves in a position to say specifically what kind and extent of armed forces we will have; until the public is prepared to express its desires as to what type of relationship should continue between the people of our Democracy and the men in service; and until the six member agencies of the USO

have had opportunity to determine in the light of changed circumstances what sort of service they wish to render the new peacetime Army and Navy, and under what conditions.

The successful conclusion of the war does not, cannot, and will not return the United States to its pre-war status. New factors of size and of scope have entered the picture.

Quantitatively, we shall not soon again have an Army and Navy of merely a quarter of a million men. It is clear even now that our armed forces in the post-war period must be numbered in the millions — and thus present a totally different problem.

### *Post-War Morale*

Qualitatively, it is also clear that the national interest calls for putting our post-war armed forces on the highest possible level of morale, not merely in terms of professional proficiency, but also in terms of international public relations. That our Army and Navy should be expert goes without saying. But it is also important, if not at once so obvious, that wherever the military task lies overseas the spirit and attitude of our armed forces will have much to do with the spirit and attitude of other countries toward the people of these United States.

The armed forces of the United States have demonstrated in the years of winning the war what must be equally true in the years of winning the peace; they are ambassadors extraordinary, carrying the authentic quality of the American people to the rank and file of the people of the world.

How well they play that role is obviously a question of training and morale. Official studies and tabulations made by the Army reveal that the number one personal sacrifice for three-quarters of their men is "leaving home and friends." This heavily underscores the value of providing a "home away from home."

Therefore, the American people themselves must face the fact that their armed forces will be far greater in number, should be much greater in peaceful influence, and for both reasons must be sustained at a high level of morale.

The USO was formed to serve a temporary purpose; it is operating under temporary agreements; and it

has been financed and supported as a war-related organization, wholly devoted to a war-related aim and wholly free of any vested interest in self-perpetuation. It neither seeks nor shirks any specific responsibility, but the particular responsibility it did assume in 1941 will have been discharged by the end of 1947.

Therefore, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of USO have unanimously affirmed the following decision:

"USO will complete its wartime, demobilization and reconversion services December 31, 1947.

"In the meantime, the member agencies of USO which will have peace-time responsibilities in serving the armed forces will appraise those responsibilities in the light of the future plans of our country for the armed forces and, giving consideration to the pattern of cooperation set by USO, will determine in what fashion those responsibilities can best be discharged."

*L. F. Kimball*

*President*

*February 4, 1946*



## FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

The accompanying statements and chart reflect the cost of operation during the calendar year 1945. Although the disbursements for 1945 totalled \$56,000,000.00, the cost for the fiscal period of the National War Fund, which ran from October 1, 1944, to September 30, 1945, amounted to \$57,000,000.00. Following V-J Day, USO in presenting its cash requirements to the National War Fund for the twelve months following September 30, 1945, reduced its approved budget by an amount of \$10,000,000.00 and asked only \$52,000,000.00. Later, the National War Fund deemed it advisable to make the 1945 appeal its last and to finance its member agencies to December 31, 1946. The estimated cash requirements of USO projected for this 15 months period totaled \$61,000,000.00. It now seems possible for USO to reduce its estimated cash requirements during this extended period by an additional \$5,000,000.00, thus effecting an over-all reduction of \$15,000,000.00.

USO will conduct its own campaign next September and October with a goal sufficient to cover minimum service requirements through 1947.

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### SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES for the Period from January 24, 1941 to December 31, 1945

CONTRIBUTIONS . . . . .		\$184,218,491.00
January 24, 1941 to December 31, 1944 . . . . .	\$127,216,481.00	
Calendar Year 1945 . . . . .	57,002,010.00	
EXPENDITURES . . . . .		179,316,254.00
January 24, 1941 to December 31, 1944 . . . . .	\$122,463,151.00	
Calendar Year 1945 . . . . .	56,853,103.00	
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES . . . . .		\$ 4,902,237.00
Allocated as follows:		
Imprest Funds and Advances . . . . .		\$ 3,027,761.00
Member Agencies . . . . .	\$ 2,024,415.00	
Others . . . . .	1,003,346.00	
Inventory of Supplies . . . . .		114,220.00
Net Operating Cash . . . . .		1,760,256.00
Cash in Banks . . . . .	\$ 2,288,496.00	
Less: . . . . .	528,240.00	
Reserve for Property Restoration . . . . .	\$500,000.00	
Federal Income Tax Withheld, etc. . . . .	28,240.00	
Total as above . . . . .		\$ 4,902,237.00

**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES**  
for the Calendar Years 1944 and 1945

	1944	1945
<b>GENERAL SERVICES</b>		
Agency Unit Operations . . . . .	\$22,135,973.88	\$20,825,455.00
Mobile Field Operations . . . . .	1,322,485.74	1,136,767.00
Overseas Unit Operations . . . . .	2,587,709.76	3,300,874.00
Overseas Advances charged as Prior Year Expenses . . . . .	(255,086.29)	(173,755.00)
Community Conducted Operations . . . . .	4,155,579.26	4,385,796.00
USO-Camp Shows, Inc. . . . .	10,129,000.00	16,607,523.00
Program and Religious Materials . . . . .	2,014,298.29	1,568,322.00
Special Program Personnel Expense . . . . .	457,822.51	384,600.00
Training . . . . .	410,034.42	312,042.00
Total . . . . .	\$42,957,817.57	\$48,347,624.00
<b>PROPERTY EXPENDITURES</b>		
Automobiles . . . . .	\$ 273,464.25	\$ 124,387.00
Equipment and Improvements of USO Occupied Buildings . . . . .	3,175,080.34	1,864,769.00
Total . . . . .	\$ 3,448,544.59	\$ 1,989,156.00
<b>REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENT EXPENSE</b>		
Automobiles . . . . .	\$ 96,264.01	\$ 224,915.00
Equipment and Renovations of USO Occupied Buildings . . . . .	1,366,090.24	1,358,165.00
Total . . . . .	\$ 1,462,354.25	\$ 1,583,080.00
<b>SUPERVISION AND GENERAL EXPENSE</b>		
Regional Supervision — U. S. A. . . . .	\$ 1,841,815.25	\$ 1,948,998.00
Overseas Supervision — Headquarters . . . . .	211,092.71	158,166.00
Public Information Service . . . . .	292,045.87	285,663.00
Insurance . . . . .	327,438.45	287,042.00
Accounting and Auditing . . . . .	472,813.08	500,365.00
General Administration . . . . .	2,066,907.07	1,986,622.00
Total . . . . .	\$ 5,212,112.43	\$ 5,166,856.00
<b>SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS — FOREIGN GRANTS</b>		
Gross Expenditures . . . . .	\$ 27,901.25	\$ 39,392.00
Total . . . . .	\$53,108,730.09	\$57,126,108.00
<b>Less — Income</b>		
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment . . . . .	\$ 50,440.40	\$ 259,635.00
Cash Discounts . . . . .	14,059.06	13,370.00
Total . . . . .	\$ 64,499.46	\$ 273,005.00
NET EXPENDITURES . . . . .	\$53,044,230.63	\$56,853,103.00

NOTE: The figures presented above for the calendar year 1945 reflect actual expenditures for eleven months ended November 30, 1945, estimated Agency expenditures for the month of December and estimated Overseas Department expenditures for the months of November and December. The figures presented above for the calendar year 1944 have been adjusted in accordance with accounting practices used during 1945; however, the "Net Expenditures" total has not been affected.

*The accounts of United Service Organizations, Inc. are under continual examination and audit by Messrs. Lybrand, Ross Bros. and Montgomery, Certified Public Accountants. The foregoing statement has not been specifically reviewed by the Auditors, however, since the fiscal period used for auditing purposes ends at June 30th. An audit as of June 30, 1945 was completed by Lybrand, Ross Bros. and Montgomery and the certified Report of Audit dated November 14, 1945 was distributed to the Members of the Board of Directors.*

Issued by the Comptroller, December 31, 1945.





★                      ★                      ★

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Mrs. Fred Attaway, Charleston  
Mrs. Arney R. Childs, Columbia  
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**SOUTH DAKOTA**

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Salt Lake City

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**WEST VIRGINIA**

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**WASHINGTON**

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Albert S. Puelicher, Milwaukee  
Mrs. James Bergstrom, Neenah

**WYOMING**

W. O. Wilson, Cheyenne  
Mrs. James A. Greenwood, Cheyenne

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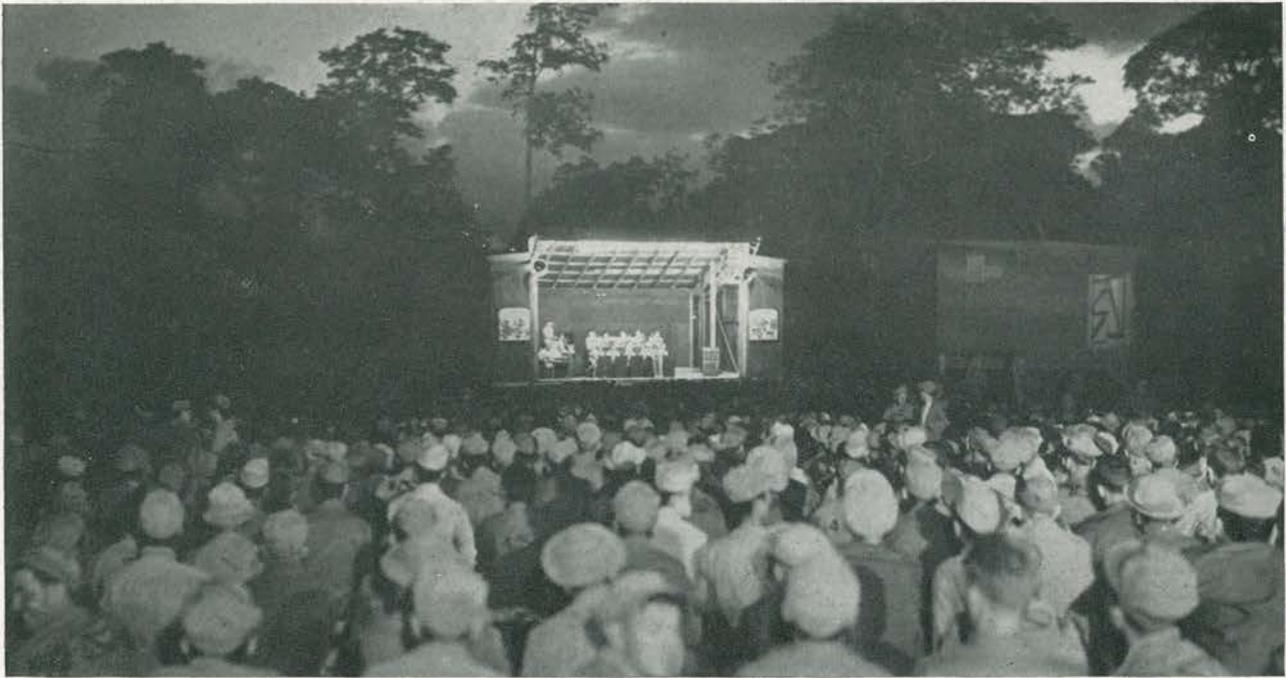
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Mrs. Ralph Earle

Mrs. Marshall Field  
Mrs. Basil Harris  
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Mrs. Robert Snowden  
C. C. Spaulding  
Mrs. Rush Sturges  
Dr. Charles H. Wesley  
Mrs. Clay Williams





Dear USO —

I'm writing this letter to you to express my appreciation for what the USO has done for me.

I'm a civilian now. I was discharged yesterday, but I feel I would like to say something favorable to USO. By me, you've done a great job. While I was in America I spent many evenings, pleasant evenings at USO clubs in many camps in the States. Without those clubs, army life would have been almost unbearable for me. What would I have done on my weekend passes — walk the streets, around and around, batted my head against a brick wall, if it weren't for the USO.

Then the USO didn't stop there. At railroad stations the friendly hand of the USO gave me food and coffee. How wonderful it is to remember those days when I arrived at a railroad terminal on some mighty cold winter evenings and found many a piping hot cup of coffee awaiting for me. That hit the spot — and my heart.

Over in Europe, before and after the war, many a time the USO shows kept my morale up. And brother, you don't know how hard it is for a GI to have morale over there.

And last, I want to thank the hostesses in the USO for making my last time in a USO a most pleasant and satisfying experience. Good luck to you, and I hope you continue to get the support from the public as befits a most beneficial enterprise.

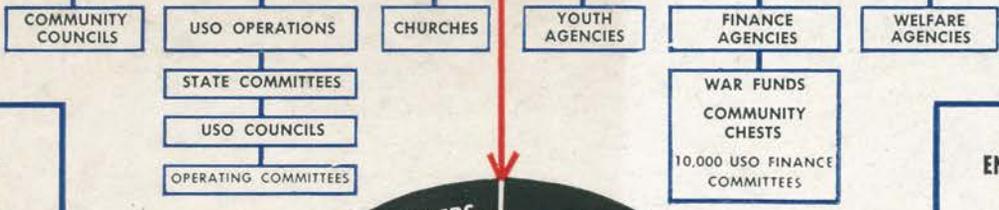
WILLIAM B. BLAKEMAN,  
Ex-Pfc., U. S. Army

United Service Organizations  
F P E



THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

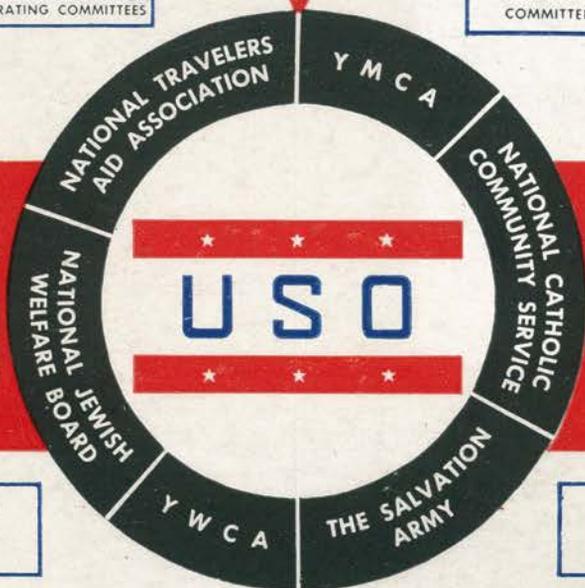


INDUSTRIAL  
MANAGEMENT  
AND  
ORGANIZED LABOR

ENTERTAINMENT  
INDUSTRY

USO CLUBS  
TRANSIT LOUNGES  
MOBILE SERVICES

USO-CAMP SHOWS  
OVERSEAS  
AND IN U. S.



REGIONAL  
FSA  
OFFICES

FEDERAL  
SECURITY  
AGENCY

ARMY SERVICE  
COMMANDS  
and  
NAVAL DISTRICTS

ARMY SPECIAL  
SERVICE DIVISION  
BUREAU OF  
NAVAL PERSONNEL

ARMY & NAVY  
JOINT  
COMMITTEE

SECRETARY OF WAR

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES