

German Prisoner Learns That People He Was Taught To Hate Treat Him Kindly

By RUTH COWAN
Associated Press Staff Writer
US ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL,
Southern England—"Bring in the
next patient," said the tall, surgeon
as he drew on a pair of fresh
sterile rubber gloves.

Capt. Leonid Cherney was an
impressive figure in his unbleached
muslin operating gown. Russian-
born, he spoke with a slight
accent. He had just finished put-
ting a cast on an American infan-
tryman whose left leg had been
fractured by machinegun fire.

Next — A German

"By the way, who is the next
patient?" the surgeon asked the
nurse, Sec. Lt. Betty Seabrook.

"That German boy — the one
about 16 or 17," she replied. "He
has gun-shot wounds in his upper
left arm. It's fractured."

"Oh, yes," said the surgeon.
"He's the one on whom I'm going
to try a new type of cast."

The door to the tent, homemade
from odd scraps of lumber,
opened and two litter bearers,
moving slowly to prevent the
slightest jar, brought in the
young prisoner. An MP stayed
outside on guard.

Prisoner Frightened

Gently the litter bearers shifted
the patient to the operating
table. One placed on a side table
a small white sack containing a
couple packages of cigarettes.

The prisoner was conscious and
his blue, unsmiling eyes intently
regarded everyone and every-
thing. He was slight, of medium
height, and his rather thin face
was topped with blonde, towse-
led, curly hair. His pulse
throbbed noticeably at the base
of his throat.

It was obvious that he was
frightened and yet curious about
the Americans. He stared un-
blinkingly at Cpl. Thomas Cop-
pinger who looked down at him
solemnly.

Smile Softens Face

Lt. Seabrook rattled her instru-
ments as she got them ready to
give the boy an intravenous an-
esthetic and he turned his face
toward her, his lips pursed.

"How are you feeling?" Cher-
ney asked him in German. The
young captive looked quickly at
the doctor. A smile changed his
expression and softened the cold
blue of his eyes.

In German, Cherney told him
he wanted him to sit up on the
table as he was going to put a
plaster cast around his chest to
which he could attach the cast on
his arm so the latter would be
held steady as he was being sent
on to a rear hospital.

Prisoner Cooperates

The German nodded and aided
by two corporals and the doctor,
he got himself to a sitting posi-
tion, his legs hanging over the
side of the table. He was game
about it, but it hurt.

The corporals took turns hold-
ing his injured arm—out at an
angle—he had been shot close to
the shoulder and the arm was
fractured there. Capt. Cherney
began applying the cast, while
talking to him in German.

"He says he is a paratrooper
and that he is glad to be out of
the war," the doctor translated.
Then he chuckled. "He just asked
me what day this was. Tomorrow
is his birthday. He'll be 19."

No Superman

Several other surgeons came in
to see Capt. Cherney's special
chest cast. One of them com-
mented: "He looks more like 16
or 17—and certainly not a super-
man."

As each newcomer arrived the
captive looked him over gravely.
Two Jewish surgeons stopped to
watch. One offered a suggestion.

He gazed at them, but there
was no guessing his thoughts from
his blank expression. Since his
arrival his ice-blue eyes had seen
that the people nazism would
have him hate were working to
save his life and those of other
German captives.

Wound Cleansed

The chest cast on, the patient



WRITER — Eleanor Powell,
dancing star, boosts the cam-
paign for letters to service men
from a personal angle—husband
Glenn Ford is serving with the
United States Marines.

was helped back to a prone posi-
tion. Lt. Seabrook administered
the anesthetic into his right arm.
While he was under, Cpl. Cher-
ney cleaned out the gun shot
wounds and then put the whole
arm into a cast. The arm extend-
ed out and over the chest.

"All right, take him to the
ward," said the surgeon, stepping
back.

Litter bearers came. As gently
as though he were conscious and
could feel pain, they shifted him
back to the litter. They were go-
ing out when someone spotted his
sack of cigarettes, and said:

"Here, don't forget these."

Allen Rites Held Saturday

INDEPENDENCE — James H.
Allen died at the family home in
Monmouth, July 19.

He was born in Belfast, Ireland,
September 23, 1876, of Irish and
Scotch parents. He came to Port-
land 30 years ago and spent 27
years in the Electric Steel found-
ry. He retired September, 1943,
and went to Monmouth where he
resided until his death.

Mr. Allen is survived by his
widow, Anna; three stepchildren,
Robert Tremayne of the US navy,
Gladys Ziegler of Aurora and Ce-
lena Conkey of Monmouth; one
grandchild, Earlene Conkey; also
by one brother, Thomas Allen of
Portland, and a sister, Marthe
Bjornvall of Portland.

He was a member of Sunnyside
lodge AF & AM and Al Kader
temple of the Scottish Rite. He
was a life member of the Shrine
hospital for crippled children.

Services were held from the
Smith-Baun mortuary in Mon-
mouth July 22. Burial was in Mt.
Crest Abbey, Salem.

Amity Lodge Installs Heads

AMITY—Officers of Industry
Rebekah lodge of Amity installed
Tuesday by District Deputy Pres-
ident Mrs. Elsie Mitchell, assisted
by Ethel Farmer, Nellie Rogers
and Mary Breeding were, Mrs.
Ethel Farmer, noble grand; Mrs.
Elsie Mitchell, recording secre-
tary; Mrs. Mamie Yanus, financial
secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Woods,
treasurer; Mrs. Vernisha Newby,
chaplain; Mrs. Mary Breeding,
right support noble grand; Mrs.
Gertie Richter, musician.



CELLULOID LIVE—Jean McCracken, late of the Broad-
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the Hollywood cameras. Her most-suited dance partners are Hu-
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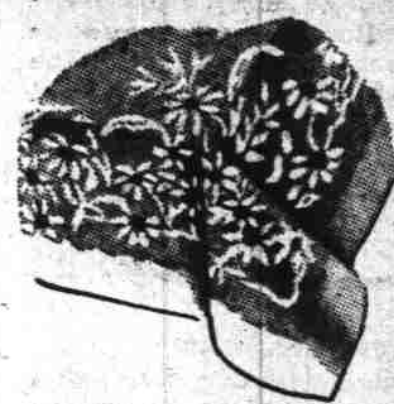
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