

Torrance Soldier Among Heroes to Have Dates With Hollywood Cuties

Twelve California combat heroes, convalescing at the Army's Birmingham General Hospital, Van Nuys, yesterday got a sneak preview of the blind dates they'll have with a dozen Hollywood beauties Friday night, Sept. 28, as a welcoming home gift.

The G. I. patients, all heavily decorated from action in the Pacific and Europe and recently returned from the war fronts, were asked by hospital morale officers what particular thing they missed most while overseas. One of them is Pvt. James Fowler, 20610 N. Ryal blvd., Torrance.

Pfc. Wilfred Swanson, of 1122 E. 90th st., Los Angeles, a spokesman for the others, cleared his throat. "Well," he said, "The mostest thing we saw the least of overseas was beautiful girls."

That decided the nature of the party. A call went out for local representatives of American beauty and the Samuel Goldwyn studios volunteered by sending a group of Goldwyn Girls to meet the men and make plans for the dates.

Goldwyn contributed further to the festivities by arranging for reserved seats for the couples at the premiere of the film "Wonder Man," in which the girls appear with Danny Kaye at the Hollywood Pantages theater that night.

First there'll be dinner at a swank restaurant for the servicemen and their dates, followed by the movie premiere and a few hours of fun at a night spot afterward.

The gala affair is being arranged by the hospital as a part of the accelerated program to assure war-wounded G. I.'s that the services rendered their country are not being forgotten.

Said Capt. Richard Hamilton, public relations officer at Birmingham hospital: "Now that the war is over, too many people are inclined to forget the man in uniform. In Army hospitals, particularly, many long months and even years of convalescing are ahead for some of these men. Entertainment is one of the best methods we have of speedily returning them to health and vigor."

So yesterday the men previewed the girls and vice versa. Nothing definite was settled about priority for either side; nobody knows who gets whom for the date.

"Not that it matters much," grinned Sgt. Hermas Smith, of 969 Afton Road, San Marino, "There's a prize in every package."

The patients took their visitors on a tour of the hospital, treated them to drinks in the P. X., and had their pictures taken for post-war scrapbooks.



BLINKER FLASH . . . Vernon C. Burpo, 26, seaman, 1/c, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claud L. Burpo, reside at 1452 W. 220th ave., is shown at his duties aboard the escort aircraft carrier U.S.S. Natoma Bay. Burpo has been aboard this carrier since Oct., 1943, and took part in operations in the Marshall Islands, the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea and at Saipan, Leyte, Lingayen, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

FROM THE E.T.O. Sgt. David A. Richards, attached to the 416th group, 9th Army Air Forces, arrived recently following ten months' service in France. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Richards, of 909 Sartori ave.

ENDS FURLOUGH Ensign Clarence M. Allen returned Sunday to San Francisco, following a fifteen day leave during which he visited his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Bush, of 1303 Cota ave.

Now they're polishing up their medals for the Friday night party which, they all enthusiastically agree, will be a high spot in their lives.

The other combat heroes are: Pfc. Howard M. Balch, 1072 Exposition blvd., Los Angeles; Pfc. Richard Dondelinger, 482 Vassar, Berkeley; Pfc. Wilfred Swanson, Los Angeles; Cpl. Kenneth Jones, 8931 S. Harvard blvd., Los Angeles; Sgt. George Pflug, Van Nuys; Pvt. James Cagle, 6601 Prospect, Bell; Sgt. Hermas Smith, San Marino; Pvt. Dale Gustafson, 3421 Edgemoor Dr., Los Angeles; Pfc. Richard Inlow, 187 Louise st., Long Beach; Sgt. Harry Zimmerman, 8164 Chestnut st., South Gate and Cpl. Robert L. Burger, 5109 Hedda st., Bellflower.

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