

SCIENCE INFORMATION

for Members of the
Armed Forces **OVERSEAS**

IN order to serve the armed forces, Science News Letter recently offered its new monthly Overseas Edition to men and women outside the United States.

This special edition is geared to the armed forces—it contains scientific information interesting and useful to them. News important to us here, but not to them there, is cut out in order to pack the Overseas Science News Letter with the science information of greatest interest and use to members of our armed forces Overseas.

It is just sixteen pages (like the Science News Letter you are reading), but it is pocket size, printed on Air Mail weight paper, and the pictures and types are one-third smaller than the regular weekly edition. It is mailed by **FIRST CLASS MAIL** to service people Overseas each month, for \$1.25 per year.

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authorities. The few inhabitants will sympathize with these popular outlaws and help them by their intimate knowledge of trails, hideouts, and such springs and water-holes as may exist. Enemy ground forces unfamiliar with the terrain will almost certainly never find their quarry, and are very likely to

get lost and finally ambushed themselves. Even airplanes are of little use, for men in dust-colored clothes crouching under dusty bushes are as invisible as quail that have taken cover against a hawk. Thus the maquis takes care of its own, even giving them its name.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1944

PUBLIC HEALTH

Veterans' Center

Blinded servicemen of the Navy, Marines and Army will be served. This step takes the Army further into the field of rehabilitation than it has gone before.

► **THE OPENING** of a rehabilitation center for blinded veterans this month at a former boys' school at Avon, Conn., announced by the War Department, marks two changes in Army procedure.

For one thing, although this center, to be known as the Old Farm Convalescent Hospital, will be operated by the War Department, blinded veterans of the Navy and Marine Corps as well as of the Army will be served.

Second, it seems to take the Army further into the field of rehabilitation than it has gone before.

Previously, the Army provided complete rehabilitation of the blind during the time they required hospitalization. Now the rehabilitation can extend beyond that to provide vocational training and training for social and personal adjustment after the period during which the man's condition requires his remaining in a hospital.

There will still be close cooperation with the Veterans' Administration, which will arrange for any necessary additional training after the man leaves the Old Farm Hospital, and will help him find a job and maintain contact with his employer in seeing that he makes satisfactory progress.

Among other advantages of the new plan, it was pointed out, is the fact that it will take the blinded men out of the Army and Navy hospitals more quickly than was possible before.

The new center does not replace the two special Army hospitals for the blind, one in Pennsylvania and one in California. Neither does it mean any great increase, present or expected, in the number of blinded veterans.

To date, there are 185 blind casualties from all the services. Not all of these

are blind as the layman would define the term. Blindness in the services is defined as 20/200 vision or less in the better eye with maximum correction. Men who have 20/200 vision, it was pointed out, can get about and take care of themselves quite easily. They can not only perceive light but can shave themselves, walk without aid and do not need Braille for ordinary reading.

This amount of vision, however, would not be enough for a man to return to a job as bookkeeper, for example, or as mechanic having to read gauges. In such cases, the men need to learn how to do another job. At the new center, they as well as the totally blind will get vocational training.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1944

MEDICINE

Soldier Fights Many Months With Steel Over His Heart

► **THE TOUGHNESS** of G.I. Joes is attested to in the story, released by the War Department, of one of them who fought through months of the African campaign with a shell fragment lodged on his heart.

Wounded in the chest in March, 1943, this unidentified soldier went back to duty about a month later with his wound healed. In spite of bouts of pain and discomfort from the undetected shell fragment, he did not stop fighting until Aug. 30 when he was sent to a general hospital where X-ray examination showed the fragment and skilful Army surgeons removed it.

Majors Thomas D. Watts and Elam C. Toone, Medical Corps, formerly of the Medical College of Virginia, report the soldier is now well and restored to a useful life.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1944