



GIs are golfing all over the world—India for instance. See story page 41.

Golf Equipment Urgent Need of **RED CROSS**

By **JUDITH LEE**

(American Red Cross, Midwestern Area)

★“AND WE COULD use 25,000 golf balls right now.”

Brother, who couldn't?

Wait a minute—this is not an ordinary request, to be sluffed off with a wise-crack. This is an appeal from the Pacific Area office of the American Red Cross to Red Cross camp and hospital councils all over the nation. There is little chance it will be filled, for every golf ball a council might happen to get its hands on is already earmarked for some local military or naval installation.

“What does Red Cross want with golf balls?” you ask. The fact is, Red Cross camp and hospital councils are a liaison between the military and civilians. Things which army and navy installations need to supplement government issue they request through camp and hospital councils, which, in turn, carry the requests to all surrounding communities. Thus individuals and civic groups can fulfill their desire to aid servicemen in a really effective manner. Golfing equipment is just one of the difficult requests councils are accustomed to receive.

“Well,” you ask, “why should the military have to request the Red Cross to get them these things? I thought the golf

equipment we can't get was going to the military.”

Just so. It is, but it is going to the military overseas. Camps and hospitals in this country must struggle along just like civilians to get supplies, even though many Army doctors have recommended golf as excellent therapy for the wounded.

Mayo General Hospital at Galesburg, Ill., lists golf equipment at the head of its requests to its camp and hospital council month after month. The same is true of hundreds of military and naval installation, not only hospitals, but those where the recreational authorities wish to provide a sport program for the able-bodied. At La Junta, Colo. Army Air Field there is a golf course on the post, and the Red Cross field director tried valiantly to maintain a sort of “lending library” of irons and balls for the men to borrow. The Southern Colorado camp and hospital council partially fills his demands, thanks to the generosity of individuals in nearby towns. In some places Junior Red Cross members have been recruited to assist in the program. Junior Red Crossers scour the golf courses in their neighborhood to salvage old balls and these are either renovated or turned

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in on new ones. Patients in some of the convalescent hospitals have learned the art of partially renovating used balls and putting them back into active service. Golf thus serves as a craft as well as a sport.

Junior Red Cross members have volunteered to act as caddies for the servicemen. Some question was raised as to whether this might not be too heavy a job for youngsters, but it has been shown that the average convalescent is able to play only four or five holes at a time, so the strain is not likely to be great.

Red Cross recreation workers at Camp Mystic, Tex., a small Army Air Forces rest center where men go for their last weeks of recuperation before being reassigned to active duty, report that among their guests (less than 200 at a time) golf leads the list of sport-pastimes.

The exact value of golf varies with the servicemen, of course. Its therapeutic value to the convalescent is especially great since it is an absorbing game which occupies not only his body, but his mind. Doctors point out that anything which can get the patient's thoughts away from himself and his injury hastens his recovery immeasurably.

Whether the rehabilitation program of the future will be able to count on continued use of this sport is a doubtful issue. Apparently most resources in the Pacific coast area are already exhausted, since the Red Cross there has appealed to other areas for aid. Civilians have been generous but they can't offer golf balls when they don't have them. The golfing outlook isn't bright.

But if you *do* happen to know a fellow who has 25,000 golf balls . . .

Preview of Golf's Postwar Picture

By WILLIE OGG
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★ Golfers thoughts, in a general sense, are beginning to dwell more and more on the postwar era and they are high in their expectancy of miracle clubs and balls which will emerge from the factories when the shooting is all over. The marvelous developments in our war equipment plus the grape vine no doubt accounts for this thinking. Nevertheless, the thought is there, and there will be an awful let-down if the manufacturers do not come through.

Examination of the equipment field, in my opinion, does not warrant anyone thinking that mechanical improvements will be such that all one will have to do is to wave at the ball and that the club will do the rest. As a matter of fact, very little can be done along these lines which has not been done before. Much can be expected, however, in a material sense, for it is generally agreed that we have a long way to go in this respect and we can look forward to getting the benefit of better materials without a doubt.

We can look forward to better conditioned golf courses after the war as many clubs have formulated programs with this in view. The depression period plus the war period has had an adverse effect on many courses and it is generally realized that much will have to be done to bring them back to shape. There will be many mechanical improvements in up-keep machinery and we will see hand labor more

and more eliminated until it approaches the vanishing point.

I met a pretty fair cross section of the golf pros during the past winter and they have high hopes of good postwar business to make up for the lean war years. However, they are fearful of unfair competition which has always been their bogey man. They are agreed that they do not fear fair competition and no one will dispute that, everything being equal, the pro will win out every time. They are looking for a Moses to lead them into this promised land and, although many of the pro problems are brought about by themselves or are imaginary, it must be conceded that something will have to be done to give them a fair shake.

A large number of women are now employed in the golf shops and I expect that they will still be there in the postwar era as it is the consensus of opinion that they handle the golf merchandise and books much better than the average pro or assistant. They have also improved the pro credit rating and improved to a great extent the general appearance of the show rooms. We can expect that fewer men assistants will be employed and that the set-up of the average pro shop will be the pro himself, a lady assistant and a club cleaning boy. We can look for a women's organization eventually with their own rules and regulations and perhaps affiliated with the P.G.A.