

## Remember the Man who Built a Boat in his Basement?

## He's using it now from Suez to the Solomons

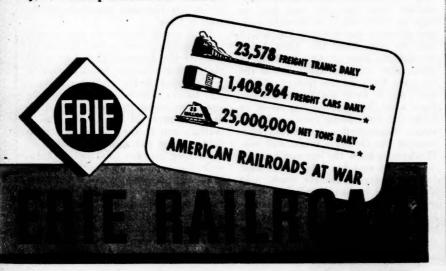
**T**'S an old story-about the man who built a boat in his basement and then couldn't get it out.

Recently our Army and Navy and Marine Corps had a similar problem. But they found the answer, too.

For example, huge invasion barges, big enough to carry 50 men and a tank, were built far inland, traveled to sea by rail. The broad, high clearances of the Erie made possible the construction of these boats hundreds of miles from the ocean.

And they make possible the rail handling of all manner of oversize shipments from coast defense guns to tanks—shipments which couldn't be handled speedily in any other way.

Whether the job is moving invasion barges or troop trains, every railroad man is doing his darnedest these days. For we railroaders believe in America, believe it is worth fighting for. And we're going to stay on the job until this war is won, and after—to help rebuild the world.



46

cards, signs, and advertising displays. Trades: wholesale and retail: antiques, beer. wines, and liquors, custom tailors and furriers, candy, florists, tobacco. Services: photographic studios, Turkish baths, night clubs, social escorts, parking lots, interior decorating, auto and clothes rentals.

OCCUPATIONS: Bartenders, beauty operators, bootblacks, butlers, private chauffeurs, dancing teachers, dishwashers, elevator operators, gardeners, fortune tellers, hairdressers, office boys, porters and waiters (except on trains), soda dispensers, ushers, valets.

## Call for Aides

Worried about the old man who had pneumonia, Mrs. X stayed on at the hospital twelve hours instead of her usual eight. When she finally started to leave, she suggested that he be given special care. The answer—"How can we?"—needed no explanation: there were other very ill men in the ward, and not enough nurses. Mrs. X returned to the ward. Her reward came later: The attending physician said that without her care that night, the old man would have died.

Mrs. X is one of 45.900 women in the Red Cross Nurse's Aide Corps, volunteers who have been trained to relieve the critical shortage of nurses for the home front (NEWSWEEK, Sept. 7, 1942). All are serving with the satisfaction of service as their only pay. Dressed in pert caps and trim blue pinafores, and armed with thermometers, hot-water bottles, and bedpans, they perform all the time-destroying odd jobs of a nurse which do not require long training but are essential to the patient's welfare. And, often most important to the patient, they add the human touch of sympathy and understanding which many an overworked nurse no longer has time to provide.

After the Cocoanut Grove night-club fire last November, the call for help was answered by more than 300 of Boston's 450 trained aides (some of whom had not even known how to read a thermometer a few months before). Without its nurses' aides, one New York hospital would have been forced to close this winter. In Kansas City, where a big increase in patients must be cared for by nursing staffs 25 per cent below normal, one hospital estimated that in the past month alone, aides had saved 500 hours of the regular nurses' time.

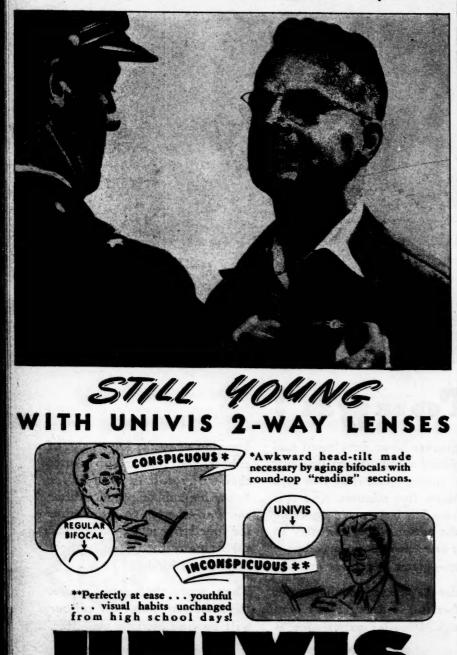
But with 3,000 trained nurses being called each month for the armed services and the authorization two weeks ago by Maj. Gen. James C. McGee, Army Surgeon General, for the use of nurses' aides in all Army general and station hospitals, there is an ever-growing need for still more aides. Though 68,000 women (of whom 70 per cent have now been trained) have enrolled for work in 1,500 hospitals throughout the country (as compared with last year's 6,000 recruits in 500 hospitals), the goal for 100,000 aides set by the Red Cross, in collaboration with the Office of Civilian Defense, is far from reached. To



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make up the deficiency, the Red Cross is now intensifying its campaign for volunteers and is appealing also for more women to become trained nurses.

48

The critical need is for daytime workers. Except for small towns, where house-



Hospitals need many more aides like Christine Gawne of Washington

wives are in the majority among recruits, the picture is the same all over the country: Working women are responding more quickly than women of leisure. For example, of the 107 aides in Birmingham, Ala., nineteen Negro women, with fulltime domestic jobs, accounted for 40 per cent of the nurses' aide service during December.

All women in good health, between the ages of 18 and 50, with high-school education or the equivalent, are eligible for nurses' aide training. The qualifications of each applicant are carefully examined. The recruits are trained in an 80-hour course—35 hours of lectures and 45 of supervised ward work in a hospital. pre ton can wh

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Graduated, the aide may select her own hours of duty, but is expected to put in at least 150 in one year, preferably within a three-month period. In Woonsocket, R. I., mill workers do a 7-to-10 night shift before going on to their work in the factories. In New York City a night-club hostess gives two afternoons a week from 2 to 7. One indefatigable aide worked 267 hours in a single month—her father and brother are in a German concentration camp.

## Flynn Fade-Out

The exchange was brief and to the point. "My dear Mr. President," wrote Edward J. Flynn, "I am requesting you to withdraw my nomination as Minister to Aus-