

India Starved, Dirty, Hounded By Beggars, But Chinese, Raiders Are Great, Says Farr

Jeep Rolled Over Teaneck Major But He Kept On, Aiding Ill, Wounded As British And Americans Wrecked Jap Hopes, Drove Them Out Of Burma

"What India needs is not a good 5 cent cigar, but a square meal, Major Walter Farr of 288 Griggs Avenue, Teaneck said today, following his return on a 30-day furlough from 2 years of service with the U. S. Army Medical Corps in the C. B. I. theater of operations.

One of the first doctors to leave for service from Teaneck, Major Farr was called in July, 1942, and following his indoctrination training, was executive medical officer at Camp Claiborne, La., until he left for India in July, 1943.

FIRST IMPRESSION BAD

"Our first impression of India was not good," Major Farr said. "The most undernourished, bedraggled, dirty and skinny men I had ever seen, came aboard as coolies to help unload.

"The first night in India we were surprised at the modern buildings, paved streets and a good cabaret in a modern hotel, but the beggars, men, women and children were a nuisance and their persistence and filth gave you a feeling of disgust and revulsion," the Major said.

"The Hindus wear turbans and the Moslems, fezzes, but they are all sharpers. The price asked is never the price expected and since the Americans came, the prices have all skyrocketed, which has caused no little concern to the British who fear we may spoil the Indians.

"After a few days in a rest camp, we visited a holy city," the Major said. "You could tell this was a very holy city because of the excess beggars, cripples, lepers, holy men almost naked, all very dirty and goats, cows and cow manure everywhere. The thicker the layer, the more holy the city and it makes a nice base to walk on after the rain. Almost everyone has an itch of some sort, and they scratch themselves frequently in any part of their anatomy.

"From the rest camp we proceeded by train, river boat, and then another train to our final destination. It was especially hard on the enlisted men who had to load and unload our equipment in the terrific heat, and were crowded into very small cars. One Captain said the war couldn't be as bad as getting to it.

"Our hospital was completed in October and we took in our first patients, mostly Chinese," the Major continued. "Shortly after, we were asked to operate an existing hospital, 12 miles forward. On the way, I swung my jeep, misjudged the distance and started to slide down the cliff. The car rolled over me but broke no bones. I was taken to the hospital I had started out to inspect, after being given morphine by a colored truck driver, and I don't ever want to hear any race prejudice talk again.

"While we were there, a company of Chinese arrived and we took care of them. They reciprocated by furnishing us men to clear up our area, and they did it beautifully. When they left, they presented me with a silk flag with many Chinese characters on it, indicating their appreciation of how well they had been treated.

"After a month of this," Major Farr said, "a request came to operate a small hospital in the jungle fairly near the fighting. It had



MAJOR WALTER FARR

formerly been operated by Major Seagrave, who wrote so interestingly of his experiences. The natives here were very different from the Indians. They are sturdy, healthy, self reliant and while still primitive, have more self respect than the masses in the cities.

SWAMPED BY SICK

"We were swamped with sick Chinese, and being the only doctor there, I pulled teeth, treated illnesses and performed several major operations, some by kerosene lamp light supplemented with flashlights," the Major said. "They enjoy a joke and it is very easy to make them laugh. If you use the right methods, you can get them to do anything. If you use the wrong tactics, they become stubborn and very exasperating.

"About 2 weeks after our arrival, 12 tired, dirty Englishmen arrived. They were the advance column of Wingate's Raiders and they brought the first news we had of Merrill's Raiders.

"Shortly after our return to India, we were told to operate a hospital further back for Americans—Merrill's Raiders, now renamed the Burma Raiders. What an outfit they were! And what wonders they accomplished! They were in continuous combat longer than any other troops I ever heard of. They had made unbelievable marches and had constantly killed 50 to 100 Japs for every American killed. They had several Japanese-Americans with them as interpreters and the boys can't say enough for them.

LAUDS LOYAL JAPS

"It made us very angry to hear of the treatment of some of the Japs in the States, after hearing of the loyalty of these soldiers. The Raiders took good care to see they were not captured, for the treatment would have been rough if they had fallen into the hands of the Japs."

In March of this year, Major Farr was detailed to Kunming, China, going by convoy along the Ledo and Burma Roads. The first few days were spent getting used to truck convoy travel and learning the extreme difficulties under which supplies were transported to the interior of China. Trucks would go off the roads, repairs were of the most primitive type and the constant traffic had ground sections of the road into fine dust in some places four feet deep.

"The thick dust permeated everything," the Major said, "your hair, eyes, ears, clothes, ration boxes, and bedding. One Sunday morning we came to a sign at the China-Burmese border erected to commemorate the passing of the first convoy in January, 1945.

"The Chinese came and stared at us and we at them. They were about

as ragged a bunch as one could ever imagine. I worked up rather a brisk practice for the next few days, treating sores, scabies, sprains and cuts. Along the road we saw the Chinese infantry in their faded blue uniforms.

"They looked undernourished and exhausted, yet they were the same ones who drove the Japs from the Salween into Burma the next night.

"After 11 days we arrived in Kunming, having covered a little over 1,000 miles. On the main streets every building has shops with a great variety of products. There are plenty of fountain pens, nylon hose, wrist watches, cosmetics, cameras and film, bobby pins and lipsticks. Somebody has been flying products beside ammunition over the Hump.

"After completing my inspections I was ordered late in March to report back to India and made the trip by plane, covering the same distance in 3½ hours that it had taken 15 days to travel going in.

"I was glad to have made the trip," the Major concluded, "but I have no desire to repeat it. I can say just as fervently as any G. I. that there's no country looks as good to a man as the good old U. S. A."

8-16-45

Transferred To Florida

Lieutenant Nadine Bloom of the Army Nurse Corps, has been transferred to the Army Air Force and is now stationed at Drew Field, Florida.

Lieutenant Bloom, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bloom, 114 Ayers Court, West Englewood, is a graduate of Englewood Hospital.

8-16-45

ON SURRENDER SHIP

Aerographer Harold Edward McDonnell Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. McDonnell of 38 Church Street, West Englewood, is a crew member of the U. S. S. Missouri, where the Japanese surrender papers may be signed. He joined the crew at Honolulu when it left on its maiden voyage.

8-16-45

LIEUT. AVERILL'S WIDOW WILL GET HIS HERO MEDAL

West Englewood Officer Set Up Defense, Saved Soldier

WAS OUTNUMBERED

The German counteroffensive in the Belgian Bulge was in full force December 19 when First Lieutenant Denniston Averill of West Englewood, officers in the Armored Infantry, was assigned the job of re-establishing an outpost necessary to our forces.

The spot where the outpost has been was in Orhio. When he reached the area he found it still under a withering barrage of enemy fire. Three anti-aircraft half tracks had been knocked out and were a blazing mass of wreckage. Lieutenant Averill set up a defensive position that withstood the enemy's assault, then carried to safety a badly wounded man who had been trapped in the flames of a wrecked half track.

On the following day, Averill led two tanks which were defending the town of Samree against overwhelming odds. His vehicle knocked out in the battle, Lieutenant Averill continued to fight on foot until killed by the outnumbering enemy.

His widow, Mrs. Dorothy M. Averill, and an 8-months-old child, live at 490 Churchill Road in West Englewood. Mrs. Averill has been presented with the Silver Star, awarded for her husband's heroism in Belgium, and a Bronze Star Medal in recognition of Lieutenant Averill's heroic service on August 28, 1944.

8-16-45

CORP. HORDYCH BACK FROM FOUR BATTLES

Was Active In European Theater Of Operations

Corporal John T. Hordych Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Hordych, of 902 River Road, Teaneck, has returned to Fort Dix for reassignment to Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

He participated in four major battles in the European theater of operations. Corp. Hordych was a freshman at Seton Hall College before entering the service 2½ years ago.

Major Farr To Open His Office Again

Major Walter Farr, Army Medical Corps, of 288 Griggs Avenue, Teaneck, recently returned from 2 years of service in the China-Burma-India theater of operations, has been placed on the inactive list effective this week.

Major Farr will engage in private practice again, beginning August 21, with offices in his home.

8-16-45