

Nurse, 33 Months in Army, Returns from Australia

By Staff Correspondent

Australia is a nice country but the United States looked much better to 1st Lt. Eleanor L. Rutan, who has just returned to this country after serving thirty three months with the Army Nurses Corps in Australia and New Guinea.

Back in January 1942, Eleanor realized that the Army needed nurses. She enlisted in the Army Nurses Corps, was immediately commissioned a first lieutenant and within three days was aboard a ship sailing for Australia. Immediately upon her arrival she was assigned to one of the largest hospitals in Melbourne, which had been taken over by the United States Army. The hospital is a new nine story building, equipped with all the latest instruments known to modern surgical and medical science. Only American boys were brought to the hospital and Eleanor tells us they were given first aid as soon as possible after receiving their wounds and then moved to a field hospital where the doctors and nurses cared for them until they could be safely moved to the larger hospitals.

Social life in Melbourne was limited as far as the nurses were concerned. Eleanor did meet a few young women who were members of a service club which was formed by a group of girls who had married American boys. One of her close friends is secretary of the club which now numbers about 200 members. The purpose of the organization is to enable these girls to become acquainted in the event that some of them might locate near each other when they come to the United States. Eleanor held the girls that if any of them come to New York State to live, they will find climatic conditions very different from their own country. Australia has very hot, dry summers and the winters are very cold and wet. They do

not have snow but it rains almost every day in the winter, which begins in July. Australian houses are only heated by fire places and the damp houses during the winter was one of the real hardships for the American girls.

Catholic and Episcopalian are practically the only religions in Australia. Eleanor said that she felt she had been lucky in that her outfit had not been without a Catholic Chaplain at anytime since she joined the Army Nurses Corps. She was stationed on board the ship which took the girls to Australia and there is a Catholic chapel and Chaplain at the Melbourne Hospital. In addition to daily Mass at the Hospital, Novena services and Benediction were held during the week. The nurses formed a choir and one was found in the group who could play the organ. Several of the civilian personnel from the hospital attended services at the chapel and a women's organization from a Melbourne Church volunteered to take care of the Altar.

After twenty six months in Australia, Eleanor was sent to New Guinea in April 1944. Life there was far different from Melbourne. The Hospital Unit was located right near the Ocean. Prefabricated barracks were put up for their living quarters and the Red Cross had a recreation hall which was used as a Church on Sunday. Eleanor said that after they had been there a short time some of the boys built a Chapel which served the Catholics of the Unit.

accommodated only sixteen people. Despite it's size they were all very proud of the Chapel and decorated

Altar Society Elects Slate at St. John's

Mrs. Lewis Kiebeck was elected president of St. John's Altar Society at the annual meeting following supper held Monday evening, Jan. 18 in the Church Hall.

Other officers chosen for 1944 are Mrs. Joseph E. Henrich, secretary and Miss Agnes Zahack, treasurer.

Retiring officers are Secretary Mrs. Charles Kimmel and Treasurer Mrs. Henry K. Bradner.

Cards were enjoyed and a program of music and other entertainment was presented by the Committee headed by Mrs. Joseph E. Fischer, chairman.

ed it as if it were a large church. One boy, who had been a sailor before the war, found a paraschute which was light blue in color and fashioned a canopy and back drop for the Altar. The girls formed a choir and did their best to make the tiny chapel seem like the one in the Melbourne Hospital.

Eleanor remained in New Guinea until last October when she was ordered back to the States for a rest. On the ship which brought her home there was a Chaplain who had been a hospital patient and was returning to the States. There was no chapel on the boat but they had up a room and the Chaplain said Mass every day on the return trip.

A graduate of Number Eleven School, the "Jem" and Elmira College, Eleanor entered the Frances Payne Bolton Nursing School in Cleveland and was graduated from there in 1940. Following her graduation she stayed on at the school as a member of the Faculty until she entered the service. She is spending her furlough with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Phay Rutan, 650 Walnut Street and she and at February will report to a

signed in further duty. Eleanor is a member of St. John the Baptist Parish.

Chaplain is Honored By Home of C.

More than 100 Knights of Columbus and their ladies paid tribute to the Rev. Ignatius V. Cameron, chaplain of the local council at a Chaplain Night Testimonial last week. A program of short speeches followed a dinner at 7 p. m.

Father Cameron is a native of Vermont and expressed pleasure in being so honored in the home of the Knights of Columbus. He said the members of the council at his home of the first Mass in the new nation caused him to know that I was among my own once again, God-kind and thoughtful people.

John J. Mallinger, localmaster, opened the program and introduced Grand Knight Richard E. Matthews. He was followed by State Warden Edward T. Burke of Hamsville, both of whom praised Father Cameron for his counsel in building up membership in the council.

The Rev. Francis Harding said of his long association with Father Cameron, brief remarks were made by the Rev. Benedict Riccardo of St. Bonaventura College, Francis J. Keenan, deputy grand knight, the Rev. Joseph McCarthy, assistant in St. Ignatius Loyola parish, Mrs. Edwina Boyle, president of the Ladies Auxiliary, R. E. Don-

nelly, Harold Hegan, John Hegan, and F. J. Kelly.

Do not try to bend any more than the trees try to bend. Try to grow straight and life will bend you. L. F. Thornton.



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