

Camp Crane History

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GREATER TASK CONFRONTS CITY

Enlargement of Work at Camp Crane Mean New Duties For Citizens.

With the transformation of Camp Crane from a training post for members of the United States Army Ambulance Corps, into a final point of concentration for overseas forces, new duties and obligations devolve upon the citizens of Allentown. These duties and obligations are becoming greater daily, and today, their discharge has assumed the dimension of a huge task. The one way to meet its obligations is for Allentown to "get together", and respond to the leadership of the War Camp Community Service in every way possible.

Camp Crane is no longer an ambulance camp. The ambulance service begun early in the war in order that some tangible aid in auxiliary troops could be given to France and also to take advantage of the many proffers of equipment of ambulances from institutions and organizations, has been completed. Its 110 sections of between eight and nine thousand men, all of whom trained right here in Allentown, the men who received the manifold attentions of Allentown's famous "Big Brother" movement, are today remembering the Queen city of the Lehigh Valley in Flanders, in France, in Italy.

Camp Crane now has become an assembling camp for men of the medical department, preparatory to embarkation, and includes in its personnel every form of service that the medical department composes. It draws its men largely from the medical camps at Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia, and Fort Riley, Kansas. In every five weeks there is a turnover of men that means that five thousand come and go in that time and in a year more than 50,000 men will have been here on the last leg of their journey to France, will have had a chance to enjoy the hospitality of the city of the blood red heart, and to take with them the memory of what Allentown did for them in their short stay here as the last and final concrete indication that the nation is behind them.

It is a wonderful opportunity for real patriotic work, but work of the hardest kind as the short stay of the men here and the frequent turnover presents any of the delightful intimacies and friendships that were formerly held and makes it necessary that the round entertainment and social diversion be constantly maintained and repeated.