



## From APC's To Appendectomies- The Biography of Sick Bay



Call them what you may, "Pill Pushers," "Pill Rollers," or just plain "Doc", the Bennington's Hospital corpsmen maintain their place as one of the indispensable groups on the ship.

The sick bay door, which is never locked, opens into one of the most modern hospitals afloat. Here, under the supervision of Captain R.L. Fruin, MC, USN, the doctors and their 21 corpsmen stand a constant watch over the Bennington crew.

Although Sick Bay is prepared to handle almost any emergency, the average man comes in contact with this group of specialists at the daily sick calls. The corpsmen handle a steady flow of patients at the three sick calls (0830, 1300 and 1900), treating every complaint with the precision and accuracy for which Navy Corpsmen and doctors are famous.

Averaging anywhere from 75 to 100 patients a day, the Sick Bay crew are usually faced with only three or four ailments. First

and foremost in the whitehat's list of complaints are the upper respiratory ailments, such as, common colds and sore throats. These are followed by skin diseases (rashes, athlete's foot, etc.) and minor injuries. Finally, there are those with stomach and intestinal disorders.

These simple ailments call for simple cures, but the job of the Sick Bay staff is far from simple. Without a moment's



**CHOW TIME** - Receiving intravenous feeding from C. L. Bransford, HML, is Norman Cottrell, QM5N. Food is fed through the veins when the patient's high temperature causes a loss of body fluids.

notice, they must be prepared for a major operation of almost any description. Operations are performed by Captain Fruin or Lieutenant E. J. Chmielewski, whose abilities as a surgeon are said to be outstanding.

Captain Fruin has had a long and distinguished career during his 17 years as a Navy doctor.

Some of his most vivid memories include Sunday, December 7, 1941, when he witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor from his ship, the USS Tangier (AV-8), and aided the dying and wounded on the only hospital ship in the port. He also had



**EASY DOC** - Silvia Paesano, HN, applies a dressing to the head wound of Thomas Yates, SN, in the treatment room, one of the busiest in Sick Bay.

the rather dubious distinction of participating in the invasion and subsequent evacuation of Wonsan and the still later evacuation of Hungnam-Hsiehng, Korea while serving with the Marines in 1950.

Unlike the battlefield conditions of Korea, the Bennington Medical Department is split into many different sections. The treatment room is known to all, but the others are rarely seen. The Bacteriology Lab is the mysterious room filled with test tubes, microscopes, and other intricate equipment which play such a valuable part in analyzing a patient's ills. The Pharmacy compounds twenty-five percent of the drugs used in Sick Bay. In addition to these rooms, there is the Operating Room, Examination Room, the Ward, and the Record Office. The latter is under the direction of LTJG R.L. Gill, MSC, H, division Officer, who keeps a close check on all medical records, supplies, accounts, and assists in the many administrative functions of the Medical Department.

To all the "Docs", the men of the Bennington owe a vote of thanks for service granted cheerfully and efficiently.



**A GOOD COOK** - Displaying the proper method to mix a prescription is T.A. Hulfish, HM2. "A good pharmacist is like a good cook", says Hulfish. "It's just mixing the right ingredients properly."