

# Control Rest Center Has Home-Like Flavor

HEERLEN, Jan. 31 — We walked into the place right in the midst of a super dance, and immediately saw one of the reasons why the Control Rest Center is such a favorite with the GI guys.

In looking around the area, we were met by Maj. Truman Alford, a Many, La., man, who is responsible for the remarkable CRC that has been set up for its troops.

As he explained, "This spot has been established to give the front line troops regular rest periods of 48 hours, free from war activities; to afford them all best conveniences possible, in billets, mess, lounges, and entertainment."

The theme of the center, to leave the men alone, on their own, is very sincerely carried out under Major Alford's system, the men having responded in true, appreciative fashion, setting a clean record of no disciplinary action needed during the entire period of the center's existence, since mid-December.

Hitler has unknowingly contributed much to the success of this set-up, inasmuch as all equipment and furnishings have been "borrowed" from Germany, and put to good use. The Major's special pride is a new 26 man shower room, fixtures also donated by Nazis, which was started from "nothing at all on hand", and has blossomed out to one of the finest features of the living quarters.

Then, of course, there is the beer parlor, the reading-writing-lounge-around-in-rooms, the movies and USO shows, "donut dugout", swimming pool, free dental service, and other accommodations of A-1 variety.

The homey atmosphere of the whole area is increased greatly by the ever cheerful, ever welcome presence, at dances, "Cafe", and lounges, of Misses Hazel Worden and Ilse Schluter, of the ARC, two (sigh . . .) pretty pigeons who are deserving of loads of orchids. Ilse, better known as "Brooklyn", generously, patiently and with masterful talent, adds a special feature in sketching pencil

portraits of any GI desiring one for mailing home.

The CRC "chow" is a story in itself . . . best meals we have wrapped these aging chops around in this Army life, and served under top-order conditions . . . . . poked our noses into the kitchen and bumped into Lt. Richard Sullivan's first cook, Sgt. William Evans, who showed us the workings behind the swell meals and menus . . . all best of food, and most careful management goes into every meal set on the table.

We readily agreed that we had never seen anything like this rest establishment and wished we were proficient enough of speech to give some expression of gratitude to the Major and his efficient staff, but a letter from Pvt. Howard Wahlstrand, of the 17th Recon, gives an idea of the Joes' feelings about the privileges arranged for them here. Wahlstrand wrote, "The genuine hospitality and courtesies are of the highest. The food, accommodations, entertainment also are the same, despite conditions being as they are. It's the closest I've experienced to civilian life in the U. S., since I left the States a year ago." He closed with his thanks to the CRC CO, his staff, and the ARC girls, quite understandable, we believe.