

2 Wounded Sons, Mothers In Drama At Hospital



Sgt. Benjamin Ptasznik greets his mother, Mrs. Ignatz Ptasznik, of Detroit, at the hospital three days after being evacuated from Germany by ATC. He was wounded in Holland. Last week he surprised his mother by calling her from Romulus after landing en route to Percy Jones Hospital.

ATC Flies Sergeant From Germany in 3 Days

Two mother-meet-son dramas were enacted in the hospital last week when two wounded Detroit veterans were reunited with their "moms" after trips by air from battlefields on two sides of the globe.

The tearful but happy reunions brought home the important role that ATC's evacuation planes and crews are playing in speeding wounded to the sanctuary of state-side hospitals.

One patient, Sgt. Benjamin Ptasznik, a First Army veteran, grabbed a phone soon after landing and called Mrs. Ignatz Ptasznik, of 5640 Cabot Street, Detroit, to announce he was home.

"The truth, mom," he yelled excitedly. "Yes. By plane. Air Transport Command. I left Germany three days ago."

The other GI, S-Sgt. John Baltic, of 901 Clairpointe Avenue, Detroit, lost a leg in the Philippines when he and 15 others stopped a 200-man Jap counter-attack on Luzon. His mother is Mrs. Julia Baltic. He was with a mortar company of the 43d Division.

Sergeant Ptasznik went into action with the 692d Tank Destroyer Battalion in Holland and fought for six months before suffering a smashed ankle. His company received a presidential citation. He is en route to Mayo General Hospital in Galesburg, Ill.

Sergeant Ptasznik will be a little closer to home at Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek.

Hundreds of wounded veterans are evacuated daily from combat areas to specialized General Hospitals in the United States by the planes and crews ATC has organized into the greatest air transport service in the world. Each crew includes a flight nurse.