

UNIT No. 117

DRIE O. MILLER
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Hospital Section

ROBERT KREIDER
ROY E. WENSER

AKRON, PENNSYLVANIA
PHONE: EPHRATA 646



ADDRESS

EXETER SCHOOL

LAFAYETTE, RHODE ISLAND

July 1, 1946

DR. JOSEPH H. LADD
SUPERINTENDENT AND
UNIT DIRECTOR
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Ernest A. Goertz

JUL 3 1946

JUL 3 1946

Mr. Warren Leatherman
Mennonite Central Committee
Akron, Penna.

Dear Mr. Leatherman,

Following is the history of this unit just as it was written by Dr. Ladd to Colonel Kosch.

My Dear Colonel Kosch:

To me our experience with the CPS men and their wives has been interesting, instructive and on the whole satisfactory and profitable. Without any doubt the availability of the services of these men and their wives made it possible to continue the operation of the institution at full capacity, though not at times at the usual standards of excellence.

For no valid reason I had expected that this group of men would be considerably above the average in their conscientiousness, in their kind heartedness and in their desire to be of service to unfortunate humanity. However, I found them to be just ordinary human beings. Some were more or less hypocritical in their protestations of patriotism and were not above beating the patients on occasions. One man had to be returned to the camp on account of a nervous breakdown. One man, with his wife and daughter, came with chips on their shoulders, and as is usually the case promptly found someone to dislodge these chips. It was necessary to dispense with their services. Some proved to be eye servants, and were inclined to shirk their duties when opportunity offered. On the other hand the majority of the men were conscientious and energetic in the discharge of their duties, and showed a readiness to be of real service to the patients here. And some were exceptionally valuable and efficient.

So far as I have been able to learn the group was received here with very little antagonism either latent or expressed. A few of our old employees who had relatives in combat zones or in prison camps were a little bitter, but they did not express their bitterness too openly.

The group filled positions in many different departments of the institution. One man was slated for a job of social worker, but it took some time to make the necessary arrangements, and meantime he had a nervous breakdown. It seemed better for him to return to camp for a chance of getting more congenial work to do.

(over)

One man worked as an attendant for part time and as a drawing instructor for the rest of the time. I think this man endeared himself to the patients with whom he came in contact more than any other member of the group. One man who was here only a short time took photographs of all the patients of the institution for record purposes. This was a valuable piece of work. Other members of the group served as attendants in direct care of the patients, others worked on the farm, and others in the power house.

It may be regrettable that there should arise the necessity for the formation of such a group as the CPS, but be that as it may the group certainly was a godsend to us.

Very truly yours,
Joseph H. Ladd, M.D. Supt.

I think this gives a clear picture of Dr. Ladd's impression of the group. He had mailed this history to Colonel Kosch before he knew that the MCC also wanted a history, So I think it is his honest opinion.

Sincerely,

Ernest A. Goertz
Ernest A. Goertz