

YANK

THE ARMY



WEEKLY

October 13, 1944

MAIL CALL

Combat Pay for Medics

Dear YANK:

As an infantryman who has seen plenty of action here in France I have nothing but praise for the great job the medics are doing. I have found that they work much harder than us infantrymen, face the same enemy fire and yet never seem to get as much recognition as they deserve. Now we have been told that we are to get 10 bucks extra a month for being combat infantrymen. That's fine. But why are the medics in our outfit left out in the cold? Surely they deserve as much money as other members of this outfit. The excuse that they are not supposed to participate in combat under the Geneva Convention doesn't hold water. Sure they don't carry guns, but they take the same chances as infantrymen. How about giving them something for their top-notch work under fire?

France

—Pfc. HERBERT STEIN

Dear YANK:

... I've seen the medics in action and I take my hat off to them. Most of them have more guts than us guys with the rifles. I've seen them pull men out of cracked-up planes while the .50-calibers were going off around them like firecrackers. I've seen them dash into cross fire that would cut a man to ribbons to help a guy who was in bad shape. I say give them all the credit they deserve.

India

—Sgt. LOUIS P. STRACK

Dear YANK:

... If the Geneva Convention is the only thing that prevents the medics from getting the combat-infantry pay then why not give them the extra money without calling it combat pay? Why can't they get up some kind of a medical badge for duty under fire which would give them the extra 10 dollars?

Britain

—Sgt. JAMES J. LYONS

Dear YANK:

I am a company-aid man in a line outfit and I can't understand about not giving us the combat-infantry pay because of the Geneva Convention. Out here we do not even wear the Geneva Cross because the Japs do not respect it and use it as a target. They delight in picking off the medics. One of them was so close to me the other night he darn near slept in my foxhole.

I agree that the dogface deserves the extra pay because I live and fight with him and know what a job he is doing, but why don't we get it, too?

Southwest Pacific

—Pfc. PAUL H. WILSON