

Newsweek

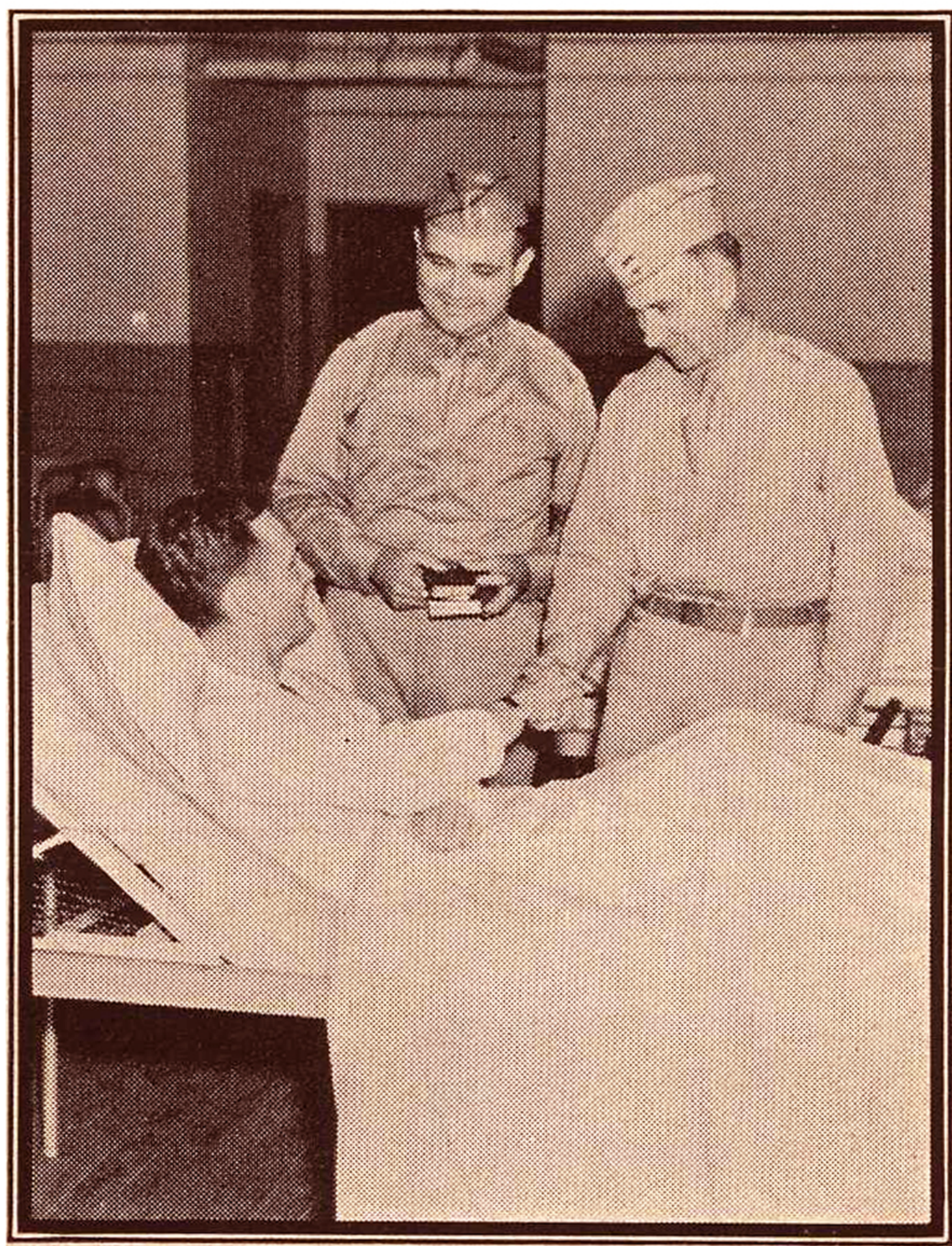
August 4, 1941: p. 50

Religion in the Ranks



Men of the cloth in khaki: a Catholic chaplain hears confessions . . .

The Army got its first issue from the chapel supply last week. At the Arlington Cantonment outside Washington, Chief of Staff George C. Marshall and Chief of Chaplains William R. Arnold formally opened the first of the 555 new and identical houses of soldierly worship that will eventually dot the nation's Army posts (NEWSWEEK, April 7). Part of the ceremony was a recital on a Hammond electrical organ, which is standard equipment.



. . . while confreres visit the sick

Meanwhile, 994 Protestant, 318 Catholic, and 18 Jewish chaplains, apportioned roughly at the ratio of one to every 1,200 men, were settling into duties that call for everything from preaching to writing letters for illiterates. Herewith are some highlights on the chaplaincy:

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- Three faiths have a hand in making chapel statuary at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. Martin Pucetti, Roman Catholic, and Benjamin Kaplan, Jewish, both privates from Columbus, Ohio, do the sculpture in the home of Protestant Chaplain Noel T. Adams. Their first completed project is a crowned head of Christ.

- At Fort Jackson, S. C., Chaplain Roy Reynolds visited a man dying of surgical shock, read him the Bible, and got him to pray. The patient next day asked for a Bible, and eventually recovered. Army doctors agreed religious faith had saved him.

- Lt. Col. Julius J. Babst, veteran chaplain at Fort Lewis, Wash., could have an Army sedan if he wanted, but prefers a hard-riding jeep. Following the men into the field on maneuvers, he parks the jeep under a tree, lays a board and altar cloth across the hood, and celebrates mass.

- At Fort Riley, Kan., Lt. Col. Wright T. Moore was challenged by a Negro sentry: "Who goes there?" "Chaplain," was the reply. "Well, bless my soul," exclaimed the sentry. "Pass, Charlie."

- The word *chaplain* is still one of the most misspelled in the Army.