

Hints for Christmas Shopping

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We were not given long to reflect, however. Orders were forthcoming, a gong sounded, and someone whispered the magic word "supper!" We all scrambled down to the dining hall, and had our first glimpse of white bread. What a wonderful thing it looked, and how delicious it tasted! By the time the supper was served, there was not a piece of white bread to be seen anywhere. That first taste of real bread was like a Godsend.

When we had finished supper we were allotted our berths, told our boat stations, and how to get there; also provided with lifebelts, without which we were not allowed on deck. We were also told the signal in case of emergency. Of course, none of the passengers ever thought that "Fritzie" would try to sink a hospital ship, travelling unprotected, all lights burning, and three big Red Crosses all illuminated, on each side. But the skipper was a wiser man. He took no chances, having had previous experience of Germany's "kulture" on the sea. We were all warned, and then—"My God! what's that!" shouted someone, and the truth dawned upon us. The submarine signal had been given. Are we going to be torpedoed so soon after starting? How can we, crippled, maimed, and bedfast patients get up to the boat station in time? What's that? An explosion? No; it was only a tray falling to the floor. But in this exciting and nerve-racking moment everyone thought that the fatal blow had been struck.

We were soon to learn, however, what the efficiency of the "men who go down to the sea in ships" really meant. For the bedpatients, orderlies rushed in with stretchers, and the patients were placed on these, taken to an elevator and were soon on the boat deck. The other patients found their way up there also, and in fifteen minutes all hands were "standing to" opposite their respective boats, the crew all ready for the order "Man the boats!"

We strained our eyes, but could see nothing, when somebody yel-