

N E W S from

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VIETNAM WAR PRODUCES MORE AMPUTEES THAN KOREA OR WWII

PHILADELPHIA -- Ewing W. Mays, the man who spends his life proving to amputees that losing a limb isn't the end of the world, says he has found that the Vietnam conflict is turning out a record number of amputees.

Mays, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who lost both of his legs in World War II, and toured Korea during the war there, said, "We are fighting a different kind of a war. The Viet Cong seem to use more booby traps, land mines and grenades.

"On a day to day basis, our military hospitals are receiving more GI's with permanent handicaps than ever before."

Mays, who tours hospitals the year around, began his fall hospitals circuit at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Philadelphia. He will later re-tour Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, and hospitals in New York.

This hospital is the major clearing center for the Navy and Marine Corps. When he arrived here last week Mays found over 200 arm and leg amputees under care and more arriving every day.

A visit by Mays is much sought after by military hospitals. In many cases his is the one example that brings boys out of their
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cloud of despair and re-inspires them. He walks briskly into a ward, dances with the nurses, kids with the patients, and often picks a GI amputee up from his wheelchair or bed and carries him around the room to show how little his handicap gets in his way. He whips off his artificial limbs for the boys to examine, answers their many eager questions.

Mays has always been concerned with the psychological recovery of amputees, but does not consider their rehabilitation complete until they have returned to society and are leading lives at least as productive as they would have achieved had they not been injured.

"I believe that the Government should take a new look at its rehabilitation programs for this increased flow of handicapped men, particularly with regard to educational benefits, and the labor market, and as always, I urge hometown business and industry to make room for these heroes as they return home.

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PHOTOGRAPH CAPTION:

When double leg amputee Ewing W. Mays visits a military hospital to give inspiration-by-example to our wounded Vietnam vets he first talks to ward nurses to single out the most urgent cases -- he answers the GI's questions, and demonstrates that the human mind and initiative can overcome any apparent handicap -- and he drives home his point in a fast dance with a good looking nurse.

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EDITOR ATTENTION: You may wish to localize this story by tracking down some of your own Vietnam vets, and handicapped veterans of other wars, returned home. We would appreciate receiving clippings of this material if you should make use of any part of it. Thank you.