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5

The Queen Waited

THIS is a story of the *Queen Mary*, that majestic lady of the seas. In March, 1944, the huge liner with some 15,000 American troops aboard, was plowing through the U-boat infested Atlantic, making the run alone, daring the "wolf pack" to come and get her.

On March 5, Corporal V. Mautte, one of her passengers, was suddenly stricken with mastoids. An emergency operation was necessary. A mastoid operation is a delicate job, even under ideal conditions. On board a rolling ship in heavy seas, it is almost impossible.

Army doctors and the captain of the *Queen Mary* held a conference. The doctors said the stricken soldier had a chance—provided they could operate under normal conditions. The captain knew what they meant—the *Queen Mary* had to be stilled and steadied as much as possible. He also realized that out in the darkness, U-boats were waiting.

Orders went to the engine room. The mighty engines slowed down. And while some 15,000 American troops slept peacefully, an Army specialist operated. The operation was successful, and the liner moved swiftly onward.—By Corporal Joseph Keating.

