

DRESS OF PEARLS TO AID USO DRIVE

80,000 Cultured Gems in Gown
Will Be Taken Off and Sold
Throughout Nation

GUARDS WATCH THEM HERE

After Hollywood Sees Them It
Is Hoped That Each Will
Bring in \$1

Two armed guards walked into USO headquarters in the Empire State Building yesterday afternoon and for five minutes startled receptionists, typists and other workers. After explanations, the guards stood at attention—but kept eyes glued on a large suitcase in their possession.

The suitcase held one of the more unique potential money-making contributions to the United Service Organization—a dress embroidered with 80,000 cultured pearls. It was the gift of the Imperial Pearl Syndicate of 607 Fifth Avenue and had been used for the last two years by that company to demonstrate the craftsmanship of the pearl industry.

David Goldstone, company vice president, escorted the guards to the office of Mrs. Irving Berlin, a member of the USO national women's committee, who accepted the gift. Mrs. Berlin, who admitted that the size 14 garment should fit her perfectly, looked as if she would rather wear its fifty pounds than hold it, as she did for a series of presentation photographs.

The dress is floor-length, sleeveless and has tiny caps over the shoulders. The design was worked out with various sizes of pearls.

Mrs. Berlin said that after the gift had been shipped to Hollywood for a series of promotion photographs it would be dismantled into eighty packages of 1,000 pearls each. The packages would then be sent to as many department stores in large cities where, under the auspices of local USO units, they would be sold for the organization's benefit. The average price of each pearl, she said, would be one dollar.

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