

The spirit continues

Women vets celebrate 'making a mark on the world'

PHOTOS BY BILLY HOWARD



'We had one helmet and one canteen of water a day. But if we were strafed, those helmets went on our heads.'

OREE GREGORY MICHAELS



Annie Lawson Richardson (left) served in France and England with the black company that established the European Theater postal system. When WWII ended 280,000 women were on active duty.

I didn't know a private from a general," says Oree Gregory Michaels of Columbia, S.C. "I didn't know what ANC [Army Nurse Corps] meant. But I wanted to serve my country, so on Jan. 8, 1943, I joined."

Michaels was among the 350,000 women who served in the military during World War II. "It was exciting," remembers Charity Adams Earley of Dayton, Ohio, "and patriotic. Women went to work who had never been to work outside the home before—they were on assembly lines and in factories making radios and all kinds of defense equipment. But joining the service was a lot more interesting."

This fall the non-profit National Women's Veteran's Foundation marked 50 years since the war began by gathering women veterans from all branches of the services for a reunion in Atlanta. "We hope to draw the nation's attention to the dedication and sacrifice of these women," reports Evelyn Monahan, the group's vice president.

The women exchanged stories—of being held prisoners of the Japanese when Bataan and Corregidor fell; ferrying military planes throughout the U.S. and abroad; caring for the wounded.

"The first of us were really guinea pigs," Earley says. "But before WWII was over, women were active in ways no one had anticipated. When the chips were down, we took up together and worked for the cause."

—Leah K. Glasheen



Charlyne Greger, former pilot.



"I love my country and I loved the service," says Oree Gregory Michaels.



"We ran together all the time," says Betty Talmage (inset) of barracks mates Marion Hartel and Stella Cain, who served with 400 others in Memphis, Tenn.

'We all grew up fast. We learned, as women, to be friends, to share good times and bad and to depend on each other.'

CHARITY ADAMS EARLEY



'Most of my nursing school classmates went into war service. It was a challenge.'

ALENE B. DUERK



Duerk (inset) entered the military as an ensign in 1943. In 1972 she became the Navy's first woman admiral.



LOUISE CRISSINGER

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Louise Haylette Crissinger, 89, died March 31, 2008, at home in Melbourne.

She was born Oct. 15, 1918, in Burlington, Vt., to Oscar H. and Ella M. Brown Haylette.

She was a resident of Galion, Ohio, from February 1946 until July 1963 when she moved to Melbourne. Early schooling was at Underhill, Vt., and she graduated from the Mary Fletcher Hospital School of Nursing in 1940, with her RN degree.

Following graduating, she spent two years in Shelton, Conn., caring for patients with tuberculosis at the state sanatorium. World War I found her serving in the Army Nurse Corps for nearly three years, in Europe with the 29th Station Hospital.

Upon return to the U.S., she was stationed at Camp Edwards, Mass., and later transferred to MacDill Field, Fla. to work at the 3rd Air Force Hospital. After Japan surrendered, she was honorably discharged in January 1946.

Mrs. Crissinger was married over 50 years to Woodrow (Woody) Crissinger, a native of Galion, whom she met in England during the war. He was associated with the North Electric Company of Galion until 1963, then with Pan Am working as an electrical engineer during the Apollo program until his retirement. He preceded her in death on May 12, 1994.

Louise was a kind and gracious person with a helping hand for all. She volunteered her services when needed in Galion at the Blood Bank Pre-School Clinic, and first aid tent at the County Fairgrounds.

In Melbourne, she delivered Meals on Wheels and spent many hours helping in offices at her church, The Evangelical United Brethren, prior to the merging with Hope United Methodist Church.

Survivors are sons Roger of Corte Madera, Calif., and Roy of Melbourne; one granddaughter, Winter Rachel Melody Lueteweker; and two great-granddaughters, Kiara and Seveilla of Kula, Hawaii; her sisters, Doris White of St. Albans, Vt., and Ethel Drinkwater of New York City.

Her funeral service will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, at South Brevard Funeral Home, 1001 S. Hickory St., Melbourne, followed by burial at Florida Memorial Gardens in Rockledge.

Contributions in her memory may be made to The American Legion Post 163, 1795 N. Harbor City Boulevard, Melbourne, FL 32935. Arrangements entrusted to South Brevard Funeral Home, (321) 724-2222. Please sign guestbook at www.af-funeral.com.

Chamings to help write history of nurse corps

Dr. Patricia Chamings, a nursing professor at UNCG, is collaborating on a history of the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps.

A colonel in the Air Force Reserve, Chamings has received a grant of \$103,142 from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., for the project. She is working with Col. Beth Scannell of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Fairborn, Ohio, and Dr. Eleanor Crowder, a nursing historian at Pennsylvania State University.

The history of the corps will focus on aeromedical evacuation, or Air Evac, which Chamings calls the glamorous part of military nursing. The book also will document the evolution of flight nursing education, and profile Nurse Corps leaders and their contributions to the corps and professional nursing in general.



Chamings

"A lot more goes on in Air Force nursing than just Air Evac," Chamings said. "But when you think about the Air Force, you think about airplanes and you think about moving people that way. So that's going to be our focus."

The authors will structure the history around major military events of the past 50 years, and will include information from archives as well as stories from nurses who took part in the events.

"Just a chronology of events would be fairly boring," Chamings said. "We hope to cover those events, but we also hope to do it through some of the people who were there."

Chamings encourages Air Force nurses who were involved in Air Evac missions to contact her at the UNCG School of Nursing, 919-334-5010, extension 550.

In addition to personal interviews with former Air Force nurses, she will conduct research at the National Archives and Military History Museum in Washington, and at the School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Caring for patients on an airplane differs from caring for them on the ground, Chamings said. "It's a challenging environment. It's at altitude, so the pressures are different. It's dirty, so some things that you might do routinely in a clean environment, you don't touch with a 10-foot pole in an airplane, like you never uncover a wound."

Even a routine procedure such as checking a patient's blood pressure is different in an airplane. "You can't hear zip," she said, so a nurse must feel when the patient's blood flow starts rather than listen for it with a stethoscope.

The history will begin with World War II, when flight nurses worked with the Army Air Corps, the predecessor of the Air Force. The book also will include actions in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, plus humanitarian missions in Somalia and Croatia.

Chamings hopes to complete and publish the book by 1997, in time for the Air Force's 50th anniversary. "Hopefully, this could be a focus piece of the celebration," she said.

Compiling the history will be challenging, but worth the effort, she said. "It may be a function of the getting older, but I've always been interested in history and minored in it in my undergraduate work. This gives me an opportunity to really get into some things in depth.

"I suspect that once you get a fair amount of this research under your belt, you kind of keep doing it," she said.

A member of the Air Force Reserve since 1970, Chamings is a flight nurse qualified for duty on the C-9 and C-130 airplanes. She was activated during Operation Desert Storm and assigned to a military hospital at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Re " " " " "



Janice Brewington



Pat Chamings



Brenda Cleary



Catherine Fogel

Five Selected as Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing

Five nursing leaders in North Carolina have been elected fellows of the American Academy of Nursing.

The induction ceremony was Oct. 22 during the academy's annual meeting in Phoenix. Election follows an extensive application process and a vote by the membership of the academy, which is considered nursing's most prestigious organization. They are:

- Janice Gilyard Brewington, PhD, RN, FAAN, interim dean and associate professor of the School of Nursing at N.C. A&T State University in Greensboro, received her BS in nursing from N.C. A&T in 1970. She went on to earn a master's in nursing as a clinical specialist in child health from Emory University's School of Nursing and a PhD from the School of Public Health of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined the faculty at A&T in 1989.

She taught in the School of Nursing at UNC-Greensboro from 1978 to 1981, primarily in pediatric nursing. She also served first as co-director then as director of GRASP (Graduate Aspirations) at UNC-G, a program designed to identify and support UNC-G's African-American rising juniors and seniors with a grade point average of 2.5 or better who wished to pursue graduate education.

- Patricia A. Chamings, PhD, RN, CNA, FAAN, a professor of nursing at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, first came to UNCG in 1985 as dean of the School of Nursing. She returned to full-time teaching and research in 1990.

Before joining UNCG, she was an associate professor and assistant dean for the baccalaureate program at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. She has also taught at Vanderbilt University and the University of Florida.

She was named Nurse Educator of the Year by the N.C. Nurses Association in 1988. She was promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserves in 1989. Last year, Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker appointed Chamings to the N.C. Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Commission.

- Brenda L. Cleary, PhD, RN, CS, FAAN, executive director of the N.C. Center for Nursing, came to North Carolina in July. She had previously served as regional dean of the Texas

Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing. She holds a doctorate in nursing from the University of Texas as Austin.

Cleary has received numerous honors, including the National Research Service Award from the National Center for Nursing Research, the President's Academic Achievement Award and the Teaching Excellence Award from Texas Tech, and District Nurse of the Year honors from the Texas Nurses Association.

She is certified by the American Nurses Association as a gerontological clinical nurse specialist and has extensive experience in the study of Alzheimer's disease.

- Catherine Ingram Fogel, PhD, RNC, QGNP, FAAN, is associate professor in the Health of Women and Children Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Nursing. She holds a master's degree in nursing and public health from UNC-CH and a PhD in sociology from N.C. State University. She joined the faculty at UNC-CH in 1968 as an instructor.

Her interests include the identification of preterm labor risk, health problems of incarcerated women, mothers in prison and health promotion/health protection of women, including weight reduction and protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

In addition to her teaching and research contributions at UNC-CH School of Nursing, Fogel has significant clinical responsibilities at UNC's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Preterm Labor Clinic. She received the AWHONN Excellence in Practice Award in 1993 and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau.

- Jerri Moser Oehler, PhD, RN, CS, FAAN, is both an associate professor at Duke University's School of Nursing and an assistant professor in psychiatry at Duke University Medical Center. She is a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing.

She received her BS in nursing in 1966 from UNC-CH, a master's in nursing education from the Medical College of Virginia in 1970, and completed her PhD in developmental psychology from Duke University in 1984. She is also certified as a family nurse practitioner by UNC-CH.

In 1986 and 1987, she received grants



Jerri Oehler

Patricia Ann Fusaro

Patricia Ann Fusaro, sister, daughter, friend, and caregiver, died on Monday, December 3, 2007.

Patty was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania, in 1949. She was predeceased by her father, Chalmer "Al" Shade.

She is survived by her mother, Rose Hofmann Shade of Brooksville, Florida; and sisters, Deborah Shade of Scottsville, Virginia and Beverly Deasy of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Patty graduated from Sharon High School in Sharon, Pennsylvania, and Sharon General Hospital as a registered nurse. Patty served her country as a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force, Nurse Corps, stationed in Seoul, Korea and Randolph AFB, San Antonio, Texas. Following her tours of duty, Patty graduated from University of Hartford with a B.A. in Sociology. Patty served with the Indian Health Service in Winslow, Arizona on the Hopi Navaho Reservation. Patty, a devout Catholic, was active in volunteer work in Apple Valley, California and served as President of the Woman's Auxiliary at St. Mary's Hospital.

Patty moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, in approximately 1999, and was a parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. She worked as a Registered Nurse at Westminster Canterbury in catered living from its opening.

Patty always cared deeply for the people she worked with and helped people wherever she could. Patty enjoyed traveling and traveled extensively though out the world and was most fond of Italy, where she spent

Monday, December 10, 2007 AOL: Dorothyce1920



Having Tea With The Queen

WWII Celebrates 50 Years

Medal of Honor winners remembered

By Rosalind Ewing

"I always knew, even as a child, that I would be a nurse when I grew up," reminisces Jean Sutton of Lakeview Terrace in Altoona. Looking back on her fascinating career as a nurse, administrator and officer, Jean looks back over 91 years. She was born in 1900 in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Fulfilling her childhood dream, Jean entered nurse's training at Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago and became an R.N. in 1924.

During the Depression, Jean worked for the International Harvester Company and besides being the company nurse, wore many hats, including organizing vegetable gardens for the men to supplement their family groceries.



Jean (far right) and Queen Mother Mary on one of several visits.

shipping over a few months later.

The unit crossed the Atlantic in one of the largest convoys of the war. But even with their size the convoy was attacked by German submarines. Jean's ship was hit as they neared England, but she and the ship escaped severe damage.

Jean became Chief Nurse for the largest military hospital of the war effort. The 94th General Hospital near Bristol, England consisted of 100 nurses, 400 ward boys and 5 Red Cross nurses, all under Jean's supervision. During the weeks and months that followed the hospital was so crowded with casualties (including German soldiers) that they had to erect tents to satisfy the need.

In all the 94th General Hospital, with Jean Sutton as Chief Nurse, treated over 10,000 patients.

Jean recalls the heavy bombardment of the area by German planes, but gradually grew accustomed to life in the shelters.

Her favorite memory, however, was her good acquaintance with Queen Mother Mary, grandmother of the current reigning queen. Jean had tea on several occasions with the queen and recalls how "graciously she accepted gifts of fruit cake and boxes of Mrs. Snyder's chocolates" sent from the states. On one occasion the queen introduced Jean to her two grand daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

They were serving as grease monkeys, changing tires and greasing truck engines!

Jean married Eugene Sutton in 1946, an aviator in both WWI and WWII. In the years that followed, Jean and Gene settled in "beautiful Astor" on the St. Johns River. Fishing was both of their passions. In 1980 Jean moved to Lakeview Terrace and still enjoys her independence.

"Friends of the Queen!" It's not many of us that can idle days away with those types of memories.

Rosalind Ewing is a friend of Jean's at Lakeview Terrace, a lifelong teacher and is very active in the Lake County literacy teaching.

The nation will be looking at fifty years since WWII. It's hard to believe. The memory is so vivid for so many, even today. To commemorate WWII, vets everywhere will be attending special activities at the Orlando Naval Training Center December 1-7.

In addition to activities at NTC, Lake County's only Medal of Honor winner,

Robert McTureous, will be honored at a ceremony for all of Florida's 18 Medal of Honor winners. The ceremony takes place on December 7 at Medal of Honor Park in Sebring. For further information call the VA office at 343-9753.



Jean Sutton

In time, Jean Sutton rose to supervise all the nurses of the Harvester Company and their five area plants. As Chief Nurse she had her hands full, but then the war broke out.

Like so many during those times of insecurity, Jean heard the call of the nation and enlisted in the Air Force in 1943. She was commissioned as a First Lieutenant and served in a military hospitals in Amarillo and Dallas before



The Mercers

Lyle and Bobbie Mercer were married in Paris, on September 21st, 1945. Their children, Simone, Marc, Michele, and son-in-law Don Bothell congratulate them on **65 years of marriage**. We celebrate in peace, harmony, laughter, and love. BRAVO!

Airborne evacuation of casualties has roots in World War II

■ Tom Condon mentioned in his Nov. 11 column that a Vietnam nurse points to today's civilian hospital trauma centers with air evacuation ambulances as an offshoot of the treatment and air evacuation of military casualties of the Vietnam War ["Nurse earned today's honor"].

Actually, it was the World War II medical evacuation units of the Army Air Force that were the precursor of today's

air evacuation ambulances at civilian hospital trauma centers.

During World War II, medical teams consisting of a flight nurse and medical technician flew into combat areas, loaded severely wounded stretcher casualties into an airplane, and flew them back to a general hospital. Each casualty had initial treatment by a flight surgeon before takeoff. The medical teams were assigned to every theater of war.

Between January 1943 and May 1945, more than 1.17 million sick and wounded casualties were evacuated by airplane from combat zones. Many of these flights were subject to possible enemy interception and anti-aircraft fire.

Helicopters were in the experimental stage during World War II. They were used for evacuating battlefield casualties during the Korean War.

During World War II, battle casualties

that were air evacuated to general hospitals recovered much faster. This pioneering method of treating battle casualties was adopted in each succeeding war. Eventually, this method was adopted by civilian medical centers.

Connie Rudolph
Simsbury

Editor's note: The writer was a flight nurse during World War II.

22 Branch Brook Drive
Simsbury, CT 06070
March 23, 1988

Letter to the Editor, The Courant
285 Broad St.
Hartford, Conn. 06115

To the Editor:

In the March 21, 1988 Hartford Courant, a letter to the editor from Linda Schwartz needs a correction when she states "For the first time in our nation's history, women were assigned to active combat zones." Women nurses in World War II were very much active in combat zones. A nurse friend of mine has a permanently damaged leg as a result of enemy shelling during the Anzio Beach landing in Italy. Army Air Force Flight Nurses flew into combat zones daily in the European, China-Burma-India, and the Pacific Theaters.

As an Army Air Force Flight Nurse assigned to the 830th Medical Air Evacuation Unit stationed in the Pacific Theater, I distinctly remember flying into many combat zones to evacuate the casualties from the islands as the invasion forces recaptured each of these islands. A Meritorious Service Unit Plaque and four battle stars speaks for itself. Also, my Air Medal Citation states that I "spent many hours flying over and within combat zones, was subject to enemy interception and anti-aircraft fire while attending to battle casualties and severe mental cases, under trying conditions, with steadfast devotion to duty." Evacuation planes were neither armed nor marked with the Red Cross insignia because they were classified as cargo planes.

Being in a combat zone left me with an indelible memory. Even after forty-three years, it is hard to forget the terror of being in the exact location where bombs are being dropped, or sensing the moment when you realize that a sniper had you as his target when a bullet whizzed by.

I'm sure there are many other nurses who can also testify about their experiences in combat zones during World War II.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Connie Rudolph

Connie Rudolph, R. N.
Simsbury, CT.
Telephone 658-9909

Flight Nurse

A True Story by SGT. FRED ROSEN

One of her patients was a GI — one was a German

FIVE hours ago the soldier now lying on the nearest stretcher had been shot through the chest. While he lay unconscious, in a fox-hole, fragments from a shellburst had ripped open and broken his left leg.

The motors of the big flying ambulance started and he opened his eyes. As the nurse bent over him, I could hear his scratchy whisper: "Never been in a plane before — hope I don't get sick."

He was one of 20 wounded soldiers on stretchers in the cabin, leaving the beachhead for the base hospital.

His combat boots, tucked in beside the plaster cast which sheathed his leg from toes to hip, marked him as an infantryman. That and the three-weeks' beard, the sunken eyes, the torn shirt so impregnated with foxhole dust it looked like an empty flour bag pillowed under his head.

Out of His Stretcher!

I COULDN'T guess his age. It's hard to tell when a man's been in the line a long time.

Our plane thrummed down the steel-matted runway. We rose slowly and levelled off at about 500 feet.

I watched the nurse going from man to man. She was in her twenties, quite pretty. Wisps of brown hair from under a kerchief hung over a small face. She looked tired.

The infantryman who had been afraid of being airsick, was staring at the stretcher over his head. His face was blank and still. The faces of all the men I could see were just as expressionless.

One man was covered by a blanket that swelled over some braces at his groin. Above him was a soldier whose right arm had been amputated. A cigarette dangled from a corner of his mouth.

The plane droned on. It was hot and still in the cabin. Heavy sunbeams shifted back and forth.

I realized suddenly that the nurse had stiffened, staring in my direction. One face, then another, turned to stare.

The infantryman was out of his stretcher.

His cast dragging, he was crawling. His face was rigid and strained.

His eyes were fixed, his teeth bared.

I grabbed his shoulders. He paid no attention, just fought forward.

"Don't force him," the nurse shouted, running toward us. "He mustn't struggle."

Fragile lung tissues torn by the bullet might collapse.

She threw herself down on her knees in front of him.

"Stop it, you're killing yourself!"

She put her hand on his forehead. He spoke then, terribly intense, "I'll get him . . . I'll get him."

Prisoner's Terror

WE FOLLOWED his eyes and looked at the patient on the last stretcher. He was an amputee — one arm off. He looked about 18, very blond. His blanket had slipped, revealing the uniform, filth-covered, but unmistakable.

He was a German prisoner.

The men on the stretchers watched the crawling infantryman.

He was now halfway down the plane. The nurse, on her hands and knees, was moving with him, whispering in his ear . . . soothing, pleading, commanding. But he dragged himself on.

The German stared — his mouth twisted in terror.

Swiftly, the nurse snatched the kerchief off her head, bent over the man on the floor and blindfolded him.

She stepped back. Taut, everyone watched.

He Couldn't Make It

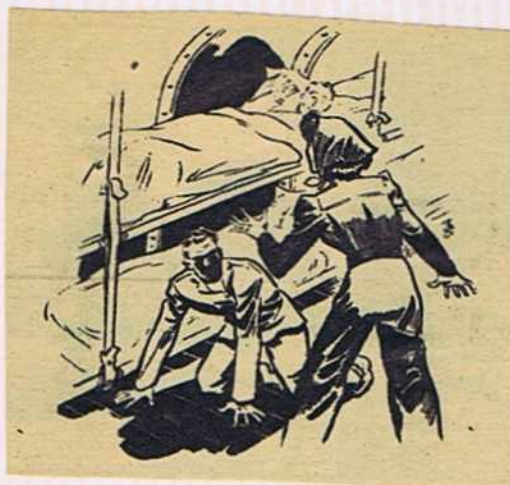
HE CONTINUED a few inches, then stopped. He started off again, more slowly, feeling in front of him like a blinded animal. Again he stopped. His hoarse gasps could be heard all over the plane.

He reached up to the knotted kerchief with one hand, then with the other. But his fingers lacked the necessary co-ordination. He was through.

The nurse removed the blindfold and covered him with a blanket just where he was. Then she stood up slowly, and smiled.

Her meaning was unmistakable. Our little war was over.

For the rest of the trip she sat on the floor beside the infantryman, stroking his head. He didn't say a word, just clung to her thumb the way small boys do.





MORE NURSES ARE NEEDED NOW!

ALL women can help!

If you are untrained — take a home nursing or nurse's aide course.

If you are a Senior Cadet Nurse — serve your final six months in an Army hospital.

If you are a registered nurse — join the U. S. Army Nurse Corps. You may mean the difference between life and death to our wounded men. Visit or write your local Red Cross Chapter for full information and application blank. Or communicate with the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, Washington 25, D. C.



UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS

LATE NEWS DISPATCH

CAMP PATRICK HENRY, VA., 7 AUGUST 1945, VOL 3, NO.179

ISSUED BY INFORMATION AND EDUCATION BRANCH, SPECIAL SERVICE DIVISION

NEW ATOMIC BOMB DESTRUCTION LIKELY TO SPEED END OF JAPAN

SCIENTISTS ISOLATED FORCE OF NEW BOMB IN 1940, NAMED "U-235"

The frightfully awesome atomic bomb dropped on Japan Sunday, actually began materializing in the Spring of 1940 when American scientists disclosed that they had accomplished "the impossible" -- the harnessing of the energy that keeps the universe on an even keel. They isolated a quantity of what they called U-235 a close relative of radio-active uranium, a rare element in the chromium group which comes from the same source as radium. They found that one pound of U-235 could yield energy equal to five million pounds of coal.

JAPS ADMIT DAMAGE

First reaction to the B-29 raid on Hiroshima by Tokyo was that the explosion was under investigation. Yesterday the Japs admitted that the atomic bomb caused considerable damage and charged the United States with being "Public Enemy Number One" nation of the world.

NEW EPOCH IN WAR AND PEACE AT HAND

The introduction of the atomic bomb scientists agree, brings with it a new epoch in peace and war. Although much experimenting still remains to be done, this newly controlled energy can doubtless be used to drive rockets, planes, ships and trains for constructive as well as destructive purposes.

ONE MISSILE OF NEW ATOMIC BOMB EQUALS 2,000 B-29 LOADS....PRESIDENT TRUMAN ANNOUNCES EXISTENCE OF GREAT NEW WEAPON AFTER FIRST ONE IS DROPPED ON THE JAPANESE ARMY BASE OF HIROSHIMA, ON HONSHU

The most terrible destructive force ever harnessed by man -- atomic energy -- is now being turned on the islands of Japan by United States bombers. The Japanese face a threat of utter destruction, and their capitulation may be greatly speeded up, a report from Washington said this morning.

Even More Powerful Forms In Development

Existence of the great new weapon was announced personally by President Truman in a statement issued through the White House. He said the first atomic bomb, invented and perfected in the United States, had been dropped on the Japanese Army base of Hiroshima, southwest city on Honshu Island. First photographs of the bomb's destruction by Army reconnaissance planes were unable to penetrate the dense smoke and dust rising from the city. And bombs of this type are only a beginning, Mr. Truman declared, as he made known that while these are now in production, "even more powerful forms are in development."

Likely To Speed Capitulation Of Japan

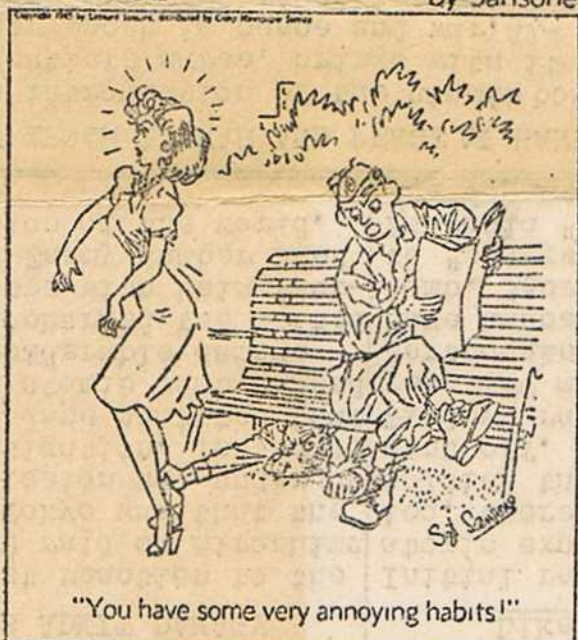
Initial reports on the dreadful power of the atomic explosive come from Los Alamos, New Mexico, where it was tested July 16. A steel tower holding the test model was vaporized when it went off. A great crater was torn in the earth. Windows rattled 250 miles away and forest rangers 150 miles off thought there had been an earthquake. Something like this is believed to have happened at Hiroshima. The power of the bomb, Secretary of War Stimson said is such as to "stagger the imagination" and he asserted it would "prove a tremendous aid" in shortening the Japanese war.

SPECULATION ON NEW SURRENDER OFFER

A radio report said this morning that a new ultimatum would be issued to Japan by the United States and Great Britain. President Truman said the ultimatum to the Japanese from Potsdam had been made to spare the Japanese people from "utter destruction" before the new

THE WOLF

by Sansone



AIR FLEET DEMOLISHED TARAMIZU

More than 400 fighters and bombers of Gen. George C. Kenny's Okinawa-based Far Eastern Air Force demolished a Japanese "mystery town" Sunday in what possibly was an attack on newly developed Jap rocket-launching installations, front dispatches reported yesterday.

MAJOR BONG DIES IN JET PLANE CRASH

Major Richard I. Bong, America's greatest air ace, died yesterday in the flaming wreckage of a jet-propelled fighter plane which crashed while he was testing it. Only 24 years old, he wore 26 decorations including the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor. He had survived countless air battles and shot down 40 Jap planes without a scratch.

ARGENTINA LIFTS STATE OF SIEGE

The state of siege which had prevailed in Argentina since December, 1941 was lifted yesterday.

'INVASION' AREA WEST OF HONGKONG CLEARED BY CHINESE TROOPS

Chinese troops have broken into the South China port of Yeungkong and cleared a 50-mile stretch of the Chinese "invasion coast" west of Hongkong, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's headquarters said yesterday. Swaying block-by-block street fighting is raging in the strategic coastal highway town, 121 miles Southwest of Canton, a communique said. The coastal area now is open to a virtually unopposed landing should American forces choose it for a staging point for supplies to the armies of South China.

YANKS SEEK 'LIVE GENERAL' ON LUZON

Undeterred by small scale counter attacks, Yanks closed in on Jap hideouts on Northern Luzon with the prize of a 45-day furlough in the United States for the capture of "any live Japanese general" dangled before them.

FABULOUS ERA IS PRESAGED BY ATOMIC

Atomic bombs bursting over Jap military and industrial key point like doomsday thunderbolts herald a revolution in war such as has not been seen since the first use of gunpowder and later on another revolution in industry probably greater than the one ushered in by the invention of the steam engine. Chemical energies heretofore used as in the explosion of TNT or the burning of coal, have originated only by ripping molecules apart and rearranging the whole atoms of which they are made up; this new physical development of power involves splitting open the atoms themselves and loosing the vastly greater energies that tie together their electrons and protons. That it could be brought to realization now is due more than anything else to the fact that researchers are no longer solitary. American, British and Canadian scientists pooled resources and enormous sums of money, probably more than has ever been spent on any research project in history.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Flight nurses turn 45

By SSgt. J.B. Ragan
Editor

Forty-five years ago, several women met at Bowman Field, Ky., as the first class of the newly formed Army Air Forces' flight nurse school. Today, some of those nurses, along with other World War II nurses, are meeting to share the comradery that has bonded them together over the years.

"We all shared the experience of being pioneers in new methods of patient care," said Clare Murphy, one of the first nurses to go into a combat zone during World War II.

Maj. Jana L. Campbell is

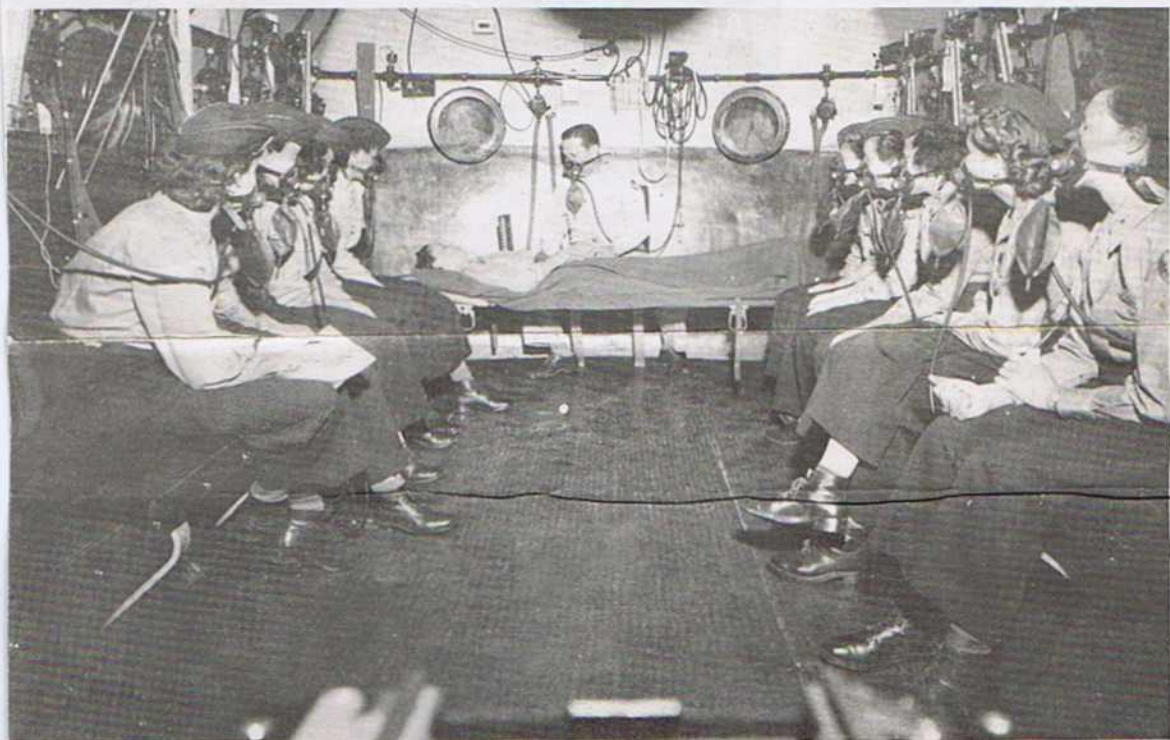
an alternant course supervisor at the Air Force Flight Nurse School and addressed the way nurses are taught today, "The message we've tried to teach through the years has always been the same. -- How to take care of individuals in an airborne environment.

"The major difference today is technology. We teach nurses the latest procedures and techniques in aerospace medicine," she added.

From time to time some of the early flight nurses write to the school and the one thing that comes across in those letters is this is the best school they've ever attended.

This is the only flight nurse school in the Air Force, which makes it very tough to get into. Some nurses have waited several years to attend. First, each applicant must pass a flight physical. Second, the applicant must be in an indefinite reserve status. Then, each one is evaluated to see if they can take the grueling five-week course. "This is a tough course. We don't just give the flight wings away. They are earned," the major said.

To the women who are meeting today, the ones who graduated after them, and all the flight nurses who lost their lives in the line of duty: This is your day -- National Nurse Appreciation Day.



Demonstration of the effects of Anoxia in an altitude chamber, circa 1941.

Location: Lincoln Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.
Duration: 2 Days (June 12-13)
Total Attendance: 357
Number of Delegates: 343
Highlights:

The War Conference substituted the Annual Meeting and tournaments were suspended.
Delegates at the War Conference adopted 14 resolutions from the War Service Committee, of which one was a resolution to adopt as its major project for the coming year the purchase of one or more ambulance planes at a complete cost of \$80,000 each, using the slogan: "Give Your Dollars Wings of Mercy."



1944

1945

Location: Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Ill.
Duration: 3 Days (May 26-28)
Total Attendance: 15
Number of Delegates: 903
Highlights:

Jeannette Knepprath of Milwaukee was re-elected to a three-year term as president.
Due to stringent travel restrictions, only 15 of 903 delegates appeared at the War Conference.
A mail vote of the elected delegates, who had to stay home, changed "Women's" back to "Woman's" in the organization's name.
Also, the Board passed the purchase of *The Woman Bowler* for \$7,500.



WIBC President Jeannette Knepprath Christens Miss Nightingale II

Location: Milwaukee Auditorium, Milwaukee, Wis.
Duration: 2 Days (May 11-12)
Total Attendance: approximately 1,600
Number of Delegates: 554
Highlights:

Jeannette Knepprath of Milwaukee was re-elected to a three-year term as president.
One poll of the Annual Meeting was to support World War II with candles and V-shaped tables for victory.
The "WIBC March," an original piece of sheet music composed by Edna Jungers was presented for the first time at WIBC's 25th anniversary. The music was played for the first time by Josephine Novak of Milwaukee on the organ.



1942

HELP WIBC SPONSOR THIS SHIP OF MERCY



This twin motor Douglas C-47 does a double job. In flight to battle area it serves as a combat transport carrying supplies, material, personnel, etc. After landing it is converted to receive wounded in less than 8 minutes. To date Air Evacuation Service has moved more than 125,000 patients. 20,000 were flown out of New Guinea. More than 14,000 during Sicilian campaign. More than 17,000 from Guadalcanal-New Caledonia area. And in China-Burma theatre, the lack of roads and railroads has made air evacuation the only way out.

Carries 18 to 24 litters on three tiers . . .

plus a flight surgeon or army nurse and medical department non-commissioned officer.



When converted for ambulance use, plane carries medical chest, medicaments, blood plasma, and food. Patients are often on road to recovery even before they reach some hospital base remote from war zone.

1943

Location: Morrison Hotel, Chicago, Ill.
Duration: 2 Days (June 14-15)
Total Attendance: 306
Number of Delegates: 306
Highlights:

The 26th annual tournament, scheduled for Kansas City, Mo., was canceled due to World War II.
The Annual Meeting was labeled as the first "War Conference." No legislation or elections occurred and none would for the next two years.
WIBC members raised \$100,000 in 90 days to purchase and present to the United States Army Air Forces a Douglas Havoc A-20 airplane, "Miss WIBC."
WIBC displayed its first service flag honoring 307 members serving in the Armed Forces. A resolution also was passed that the WIBC further remember its women in service by issuing each an Honorary Membership card, sending them *The Woman Bowler* magazine monthly and one gift at Christmas time.

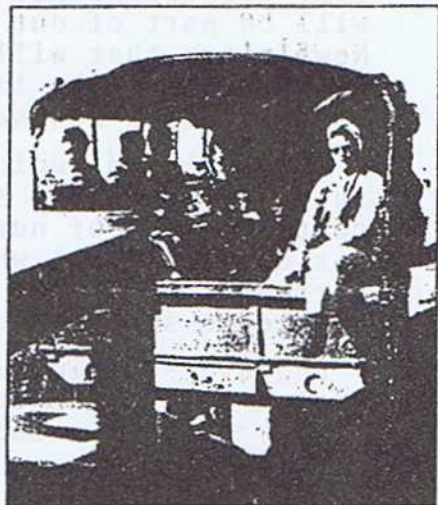
No Time for Fear

Voices of American Military Nurses in World War II

Diane Burke Fessler

American troops were not sent into battle in World War II without plans for medical care. For instance, when the invasion of the Nazi-held coast of Normandy took place on 6 June 1944, thousands of nurses, doctors, corpsmen, and supporting hospital staff had been waiting for months in Great Britain to cross the English Channel with the troops. They were prepared to set up field, evacuation, station, and general hospitals as soldiers pushed the front east across the continent. Nurses waited on hospital ships offshore to receive the wounded and return them to the States for more care; they flew in evacuation aircraft, caring for injured GIs on their way to treatment in hospitals back in England. By war's end, American military nurses were on every continent, prepared to do their jobs under any circumstances and conditions.

No Time for Fear summons the voices of more than 100 women who served as nurses overseas during World War II, letting them tell their story as no one else can. Fessler has meticulously compiled and transcribed more than 200 interviews with American military nurses of the Army, Army Air Force, and Navy who were present in all theaters of WWII. Nothing had prepared these women for what they experienced in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor bombing, capture by the enemy and POW camps, or the sight of wards filled with legless, armless young men fresh from battlefields in Europe or the Pacific. Their stories bring to life horrific tales of illness and hardship, blinding blizzards, and near starvation—all faced with courage, tenacity, and even good humor. This unique oral-history collection makes available to readers an important counterpoint to the seemingly endless discussions of strategy, planning, and troop movement that often characterize discussions of the Second World War.



Diane Burke Fessler is an editor for Primer Publishers in Phoenix, Arizona.

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We were kept there about a year, then taken to a camp outside of Baguio. It was a terrible place, but we cleaned it up and made it into a model hospital, with four missionary nurses and the two of us. Malnutrition was unbelievable, and we had some terribly sick patients. We ate fish heads and tails and watery rice. I won't eat fish to this day. There were brutal beatings. I'm glad to tell this because no one knows the half of it.

*Beatrice Chambers
U.S. Army—POW,
Camp John Hay, Baguio, Philippines*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2001

WWII flight nurses gather

BY KATHERINE ULLMER
Dayton Daily News

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE — They flew without fear. Then and now — during World War II and after the Sept. 11 World Trade Center disaster.

The 23 World War II flight nurses who flew into Dayton for their annual reunion and to dedicate a plaque Friday in the Memorial Park at the U.S. Air Force Museum to honor all World War II flight nurses, came from far and near — Maine, Florida, California, Massachusetts, and Cincinnati, among others.

Between 1942 and the end of 1944, 1,514 nurses and 907 enlisted men were trained and 18 medical air evacuation squadrons were formed, according to VerNell Bjerke, 80, of Manhattan, N.Y., president of the group, the World War II Flight Nurses Association, Inc., which numbers about 430.

Bjerke, like Agnes Flaherty, 80, of Portland, Maine, treasurer of the group, flew in the Pacific with the Army Air Corps, which later became the U.S. Air Force.

Bjerke, like Flaherty, helped care for the wounded that were air evacuated from the battlefields of Guam, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima. Though they weren't fired on, "we would see firing in the background of Okinawa," Flaherty said.

Juanita Engelbrecht, 84, of Cincinnati flew with the 807th Air Evacuation Group from North Africa up through Sicily, Italy and Germany, often picking up war prisoners along the way. Like the others, she volunteered to serve her country, because "it was what you felt you had to do," she said.

Most of the flight nurses flew on C-47s or C-54s, prop planes that didn't have heat. There were many other inconveniences.

"A nurse wasn't allowed to have any dependents, even if you supported your mother," said Edith (Brown) Rothenberg, of San Antonio, Texas, whom the others in her squadron still call "Brownie."

Rothenberg spent 25 years in the service, serving through the Korean War and the early part of the Vietnam War. She and three other members of the 806th squadron, who flew air evacuations from France to England, Jean (Foley) Tierney, of San Antonio, Joan (Denton) Jervis, of San Francisco, and Geraldine Dishroon Brier, 85, of Cheyenne, Wyo., shared memories over lunch at the museum. The four have kept in touch by phone during the years.

Flying in over enemy territory with a plane loaded with fuel created stress, and they became a sisterhood, Jervis said. "We knew each other's family. Everybody shared letters."

Their squadron was "the first to go into the Omaha beachhead on invasion day" to pick up the wounded, Brier said.

Brier, the first graduate of flight nurse school in the country, recalled flying into a British air base and being refused access to the officers' mess hall. She was told no ladies were allowed, but her pilot replied, "She's no lady. She's an officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps." The man left, only to come back and say, "you're welcome to be in the mess hall," she said.

Flight nurse training was at Bowman Field in Louisville, Ky. Since they hadn't ordered any wings for the women, when she graduated in

Feb. 1943, "Gen. David Grant took his wings off and put them on me," Brier said.

Of the 1,176,048 patients evacuated by air, only 46 died in the air, Brier said.

Bjerke was 21 when she entered the service. After her two-year tour of duty, she worked for TWA for 41 years as a flight attendant, a purser, and service manager.

"Nothing ever scares me," she said. She lives about 30 blocks from the World Trade Center, but wasn't in town Sept. 11 when terrorists flew two commercial planes into the towers.

"When I worked for TWA I was with their trauma team, but I was out of town. In a way, I'm glad, too. It's really traumatic." She walked to the site last Saturday and was amazed at the pile of rubble, she said.

Still, "I never thought to be afraid to fly," she said. "I would have gone up the next day. If you've been through the war, you don't worry about anything," Bjerke said. "If we weren't going to come back, we would have been gone a long time ago."

It was a day for remembering, and about an hour before the flight nurses dedicated their plaque, a somewhat larger group from the 380th Bombing Group, which flew in the southwest Pacific during WWII, met to re-dedicate its memorial plaque in the park.

Former Speaker of the U.S. House ('87-'89), Jim Wright, 78, of Fort Worth, Texas, a bombardier with the group, and his former crew member, Delmar (Curly) V. Sprouts, 87, of Olathe, Kansas, a gunner target specialist, were among those present.

USA Record Center
9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO
July 1973 Fire

On a hot Wednesday night in July 1973, the fifth floor of the USA Record Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO was on fire. A fire started by an employee who was smoking in the fifth floor record stack earlier that day, rather than in the designated smoking area. The incident was compounded when the employee put the un-smoked part of the cigarette in between two files, thinking by pressing the files together it would extinguish the fire on the end of the cigarette. The cigarette was not extinguished but started a fire later that evening after all employees that would consume most of the World War II records on the fifth floor along with the offices housed on that floor. It was a fire that would be fought for three days before it was totally extinguished.

The seriousness of the fire can be measured by the total damage to the "Records Center". Many files were destroyed, mostly World War II and I records housed on the fifth floor, and some Vietnam records. The entire fifth floor of the "Records Center" was eventually bulldozed off making the center only four stories high. The reconstruction of the records that were not totally burned took years, requiring the center to contact discharged service member to provide copies of records from their own personal files. Water soaked files were put in a "quick" freeze to dry thereby preserving those records. Families can get information regarding World War I and II about a loved one from the "Records Center", if it is available. Also, if you have a relative's personal records you can help in the reconstruction of the file by asking the "Record Center" if they need the information you have in the service member's personal file.

Colonel, then LTC, Arnold J. Habig, USA, was the Commander of the Enlistment Eligibility Center at the time and commanded it from January 1980 to July 1975. He experienced the fire first hand as his activity had to reconstruct some 73 records obtained from the "Record Centers" storage files, move his operation to another building, relocate his office to another part of the center when it was safe to return, and rebuild his office. He finally finished all these tasks in July 1975. He says it was an interesting experience, which took a lot of effort on the part of the military and civilian employees to get the center fully operational again.



WORLD WAR II FLIGHT NURSES

**WE DEDICATE THIS PLAQUE TO ALL FLIGHT NURSES
WHO WITH SKILL AND COURAGE IN WAR AND IN PEACE
FLEW TO ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD
CARING FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED
BRINGING THEM SAFELY HOME. IT IS ALSO
DEDICATED TO FUTURE FLIGHT NURSES WHO WILL
LIFT THEIR LAMPS, AND SPREAD THEIR WINGS TO CARRY
ON AND COMPLETE THE MISSION**



DEDICATION CEREMONY

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 1998**



Flight Nurses's Creed

I will summon every resource to prevent the triumph of death over life.

I will stand guard over the medicines and equipment entrusted to my care and ensure their proper use.

I will be untiring in the performance of my duties, and I will remember that upon my disposition and spirit will in large measure depend the morale of my patients.

I will be faithful to my training and to the wisdom handed down to me by those who have gone before me.

I have taken a nurse's oath reverent in man's mind because of the spirit and work of its creator, Florence Nightingale. She, I remember, was called the "lady with the lamp."

It is now my privilege to lift this lamp of hope and faith and courage in my profession to heights not known by her in her time, — Together with the help of flight surgeons and surgical technicians, I, can set the very skies ablaze with life and promise for the sick, injured and wounded who are my sacred charges.

... This I will do, I will not falter, in war or in peace.

David N.W. Grant
Major General, U.S.A.
Air Surgeon

WW II FLIGHT NURSE ASSOCIATION

Between 1942 and the end of 1944, 1514 flight nurses were trained at Bowman Field, Kentucky. 18 medical air evacuation squadrons were formed that transported over 1,172,000 sick and wounded soldiers, marines and sailors. These flight nurses were pioneers in the intensive care of patients in flight in Europe, the Pacific, China and Burma, using the C-47, C-46 and C-54's as flying hospitals from battle aid stations to inter-theater and inter-continental flights back to the U.S. They flew with skill and courage to all corners of the world, caring for the sick and wounded G.I.'s to bring them home safely.

The early planes were slow, the flights long and uncomfortable, altitude limited and cold without heating systems, but certainly an improvement over land transportation where time was crucial to patient care. It was a time of trial and error in pioneering and devising better methods of care during flight. There was also the element of danger and stress that drew these nurses together as "sisters." They shared the hardships together and became as family to each other during their unique pioneer days. They gallantly paved the way for those of us who have followed in their footsteps.

After the war, they managed to find each other again and would meet in groups. Finally, in 1987, the WWIIFNA was formed and their first National Convention was held in San Antonio with about 200 nurses present. They meet biennially and currently have about 400 members.

The Statement of Purpose for the organization of the WWIIFNA describes them best:

1. To maintain the camaraderie established in the formation of a unique group dedicated to service of nursing during a period of national emergency.
2. To commemorate the pioneering spirit of leaders who established a system of training for the innovation of professional women in aeromedical service in combat areas.
3. To recall the experiences, problems and joys of duty during WW II to preserve it's history for future generations.
4. To assist members in maintaining contact with others who shared this period of pride, stress and commitment to duty.
5. To honor those who lost their lives in service and in later years.

