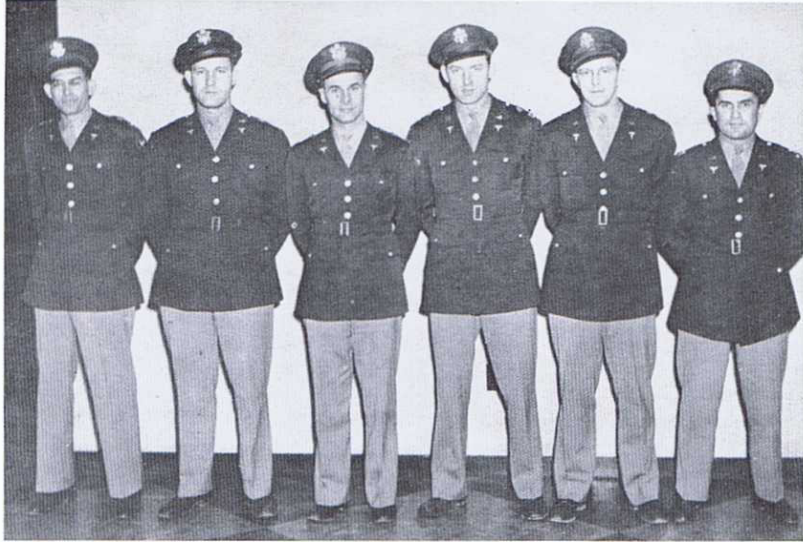




815TH M. A. E. T. SQUADRON



First Lieutenant John B. Warren, Captain Hugh H. Worsley, Major Paul M. Traub, Captain Jean H. Motier, Captain Bernard J. Doyle, Captain Morton M. Halpern.



First Row, left to right: Hegland, Winwood, Clendinning, Taylor, Stanton, White, Brubach, Troxell, Carlson.

Second Row, left to right: Lamm, Ralls, Forney, Taggart, Nikander, Hoogerwert, Slattey, Millane.

Third Row, left to right: Devany, McClish, Smith, Natle, Garrett, Sweeney, Blain, Vanuccini.



First Row, left to right: Charles G. Allen, Charles B. McCarty, Oliver J. 'Wheat, Jr., Marvin D. Dvorak, Clarence O. Berg, Louis H. Dayton, Anthony P. Savignano, Virgil L. Capetani, William A. Alton, Salvatore Tantillo.

Second Row, left to right: Robert B. Young, William J. McCormick, Jr., Helmut E. P. Puzig, Guy Schipper, Elmer Teutrine, Albert W. Bernardine, Elwyn D. Berry, Kenneth W. Anderson, Daniel E. Lynch, Wallace H. Parenteau, Bernard M. Saylor, Sr.

Third Row, left to right: Laurence A. Kupsch, George J. Wolf, Kenneth D. Watkins, Nathan Miron, Carl E. Kurtz, Herace Bishop, Glen D. Ghistelli, William D. Rutter, Kermit A. Schneider.

Fourth Row, left to right: Harvey H. Schmidt, Albert F. Wurtz, Morgan C. West, Roy E. Foster, Edward B. Hardy, Harlan P. Flowers, James W. Holtberg, Charles W. Muntz, Herman P. Mayer, William H. Wendt, Dale M. Wiant.



Fifth Row, left to right: Ralph L. Zurcher, Francis E. Flynn, Sr., Roy L. Kerfoot, John J. Pietrantonio, Henry D. Tindal, Jr., Jewel F. White, Virgil L. Bolstad, Arthur E. Markwardt, Glenn E. Muirhead, William E. Addison.

Sixth Row, left to right: Harry W. Tomaszewski, Joseph Handley, Steve J. Bednarski, Francis J. Hogan, Ora C. LaRue, Fred D. Dittmer, Clayton A. Grinnell, Raymond C. Kinnunen, Hans R. Hanson, Gerald H. Sheier.



WORLD WAR II FLIGHT NURSES ASSOCIATION, INC.

March, 1989

Dear Friends,

Unfortunately, there wasn't time during our meeting last May in San Antonio to present all the aspects of the publication of this beautiful, hard-bound book. In response to the many letters from those of you who want the Bowman Field book reprinted, we're going ahead with the project, which will be funded by pre-publication payment, at no cost to World War II Flight Nurses Association, Inc. A limited number of the books will be available.

Whether or not you were able to acquire the book, *Wings Over America*, published in 1944, you will want to own this one. In addition to the pages of pictures at the School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, there will be a history of air evacuation from its inception, through World War II, and on to the more recent conflicts. Best of all, it will be **your** story, **your** memories, the part **you** played in those history-making times. There will be stories written by your contemporaries and there will be pictures and bios of each of you.

This will be a **quality** publication, a documentation of events, a 100 plus page treasury for future generations. You'll want a copy for yourself. . . to read and to reminisce. . . , others for gifts to your local library, for your children and grandchildren. Send in your order and your biography now, and give a book as a Christmas gift.

President
World War II Flight Nurses Association, Inc.

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

President: Ethel C. Cerasale
Vice-President: Denzil J. Nagle Secretary: Mary M. Stehle
Book Project Chairman: Evelyn A. Page



SAMPLE BIOGRAPHIES

Use as an example in writing yours in 150 words or less.



CLIFFORD J. EMLING, served in CBI as flight technician with 803rd AIR EVAC. SQDN. The 803rd trained at Bowman Field, KY. Sailed from Los Angeles on the U.S.A.T. George Washington Sept. 1943. Arrived Bombay 42 days later and arrived at Chabua in Dec., home base for the next 2 years. Jan 1944, temporarily assigned to Kunming and attached to the 14th Air Force. From there, made flights to various air field in S.W. China.

March, 1944, returned to Cabua. During next few months flew regularly to landing strips in Burma, in support of Merrill's Mauraunders on their march on Myitkyina, evacuating the wounded to the hospital at Ledo. Decorated with the Air medal. Other awards Presidential Unit Citation, China War Memorial Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal with 3 Battle Stars.

Remainder of time in CBI, made Hump flights between Chabua and Kunming, as well as flights to Calcutta, Karachi and other points in India and Burma.

Returned home on the Gen. Hase, sailing Calcutta to New York — Fall 1945.

ETHEL CARLSON was born in Blue Island Illinois, 23 August 1921. She graduated from Englewood Hospital School of Nursing in 1942 and joined the American Red Cross, was called to active duty 26 April 1943 at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. She graduated from the School at Bowman Field, Kentucky, 21 January 1944, class of 43H, and was sent to England with 815th MAES, flying patients from France after D-Day. On TDY in southern France, kidney problems resulted in return to the States, February, 1945. She returned to flying in November 1946 in the Canal Zone, married **Anthony Cerasale**, March 1947, and was discharged as captain, February 1948. Duty as military wife, mother of Steven, Patricia, and Scott, involved stations in Hawaii, Brazil, and others until retirement in Florida, September 1972. She was employed at a nursing home, is Red Cross volunteer, earned an Associate of Arts degree toward a bachelor's in nursing. She arranged Flight Nurses Association in Florida, May, 1986, and became chairman. She was elected president in San Antonio in 1988.

Here's What You Need to Do!

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- Send two photos only, preferably black and white, one of you when you were on active duty and the other current. If you wish to submit one photo, that's okay too. Any photo size 8"x10" or smaller is acceptable.
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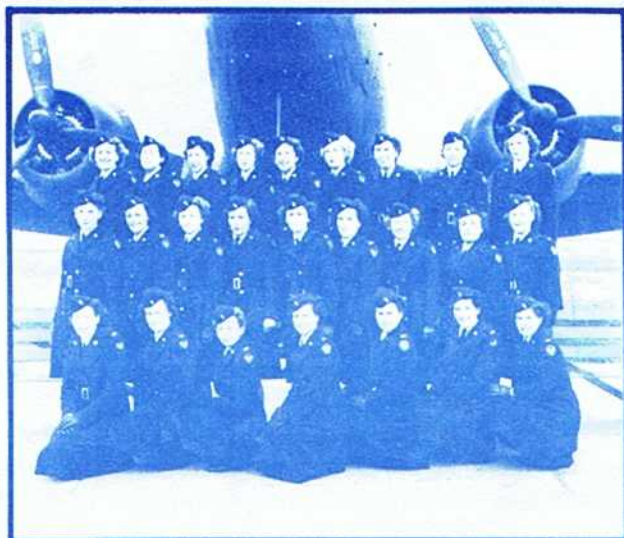
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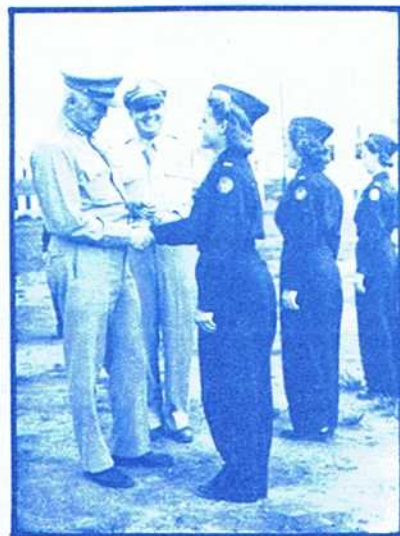
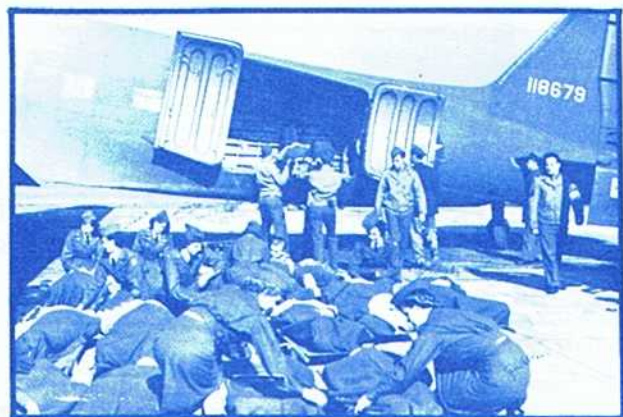
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Left Top: 818 MAET Squad

Left Center: Lt. Elsie S. Ott, First Air Medal recipient with Gen. Fred W. Borum

Below: Bobbie Ruminski and Jean Rutkowski get ready for duty.



Above: Gen H.H. "Hap" Arnold offers congratulations.

Left: Practicing Air Evacuation

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HISTORY REVISITED: World War II flight nurses from left, Liberty Sakryd, Ethel Cerasale and Memrie Wilkes look over a World War II uniform jacket with an Air Borne Troop Carrier patch. All are members of the World War II Flight Nurses Association Inc., a group that will be holding a convention at the Melbourne Airport Hilton at Rialto Place this week.

JAY MORSE, The Times

Flight nurses share tales from WW II

By WEONA CLEVELAND
Times Writer

There were approximately 1,331 of them who served in World War II — little known, hardly recognized, with barely any glory or fame.

For the most part, they wore skirts because pants for women were still a novelty. Their flight pay was anywhere from \$50 to \$75 a month. None held officer rank.

"We had a 'relative rank,'" says Memrie Wilkes of Melbourne. "We were referred to as second lieutenants."

During the next four days (May 17-20), about 200 veterans who belong to the World War II Flight Nurses Association Inc. will meet in an annual convention at the Melbourne Airport Hilton. The organization has 333 paid up members. Ethel Cerasale of Satellite Beach is the national president.

Cerasale was Ethel Carlson in those earlier days: a registered nurse in Chicago when the United States entered World War II. She enlisted through the American Red Cross to go into the Air Ambulance Corps. She was sent to Bowman Field in Kentucky to the School of Air Evacuation.

"We marched, went on bivouac, read maps, took an infiltration course and learned how to take care of patients in the air," she says.

After six weeks, the graduates were sent to Scotland on the ocean liner Ile de France. "I was in a stateroom that had once been occupied by Marlene Dietrich," recalls Cerasale. "Only there were 24 of us packed into that stateroom. We

"I was in a stateroom that had once been occupied by Marlene Dietrich. Only there were 24 of us packed into that stateroom. We bathed in salt water, ate fish for breakfast and I was sick as a dog."

— Ethel Cerasale, aboard troop ship

bathed in salt water, ate fish for breakfast and I was sick as a dog."

From Scotland the nurses were sent by troop train to England. Fully expecting to live in tents, they were amazed when their bus from the railroad station pulled into the driveway of Boxford House, a beautiful mansion four miles from Welford Air Base.

While their base accommodations may have been relatively plush, Cerasale and her fellow nurses found that their on-duty hours were rugged. After taking care of the wounded who were brought to a B-17 bomber base in England, they were later assigned to fly aboard C-47 cargo planes from England to France. Eastbound the planes carried hand grenades and cans of gasoline for General George Patton's tanks. On the westbound trip they brought out 24 litter patients.

"On my first trip we brought back wounded German prisoners," remembers Cerasale. "I was almost angry. But I later learned they were high-ranking Germans who were being brought to England for interrogation."

Each trip lasted one to two hours, with the aircraft flying "at almost tree-top level to avoid detection," says Cerasale. She made 12 missions, remained in the service for five years, and earned the American Theater ribbon, European Theater Operations ribbon with three battle stars, and the Victory Medal. Cerasale later served in Panama.

Liberty Lee Sakryd — named for the Liberty bonds of World War I — also was from Chicago. She was a registered nurse doing private duty when she signed up for service in December 1941. Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco was her first assignment in March 1942. She didn't make it to Bowman Field in Kentucky until June of 1943. She was there for six months, getting the usual training plus an extensive course in tropical diseases.

By December 1943, she was at Hickam Field, Hawaii, with the 812th Evacuation Squadron.

Flying in unmarked C-54 cargo planes, Sakryd saw service all over the South Pacific, including Saipan, the Philippines, Okinawa, Guadalcanal, Kwajalein, New Guinea and

Tarawa.

She often went into newly secured airfields and once had a close call on the ground at Okinawa. "We got word Japanese planes were coming in to bomb the place. We finished loading (the plane) and got out of there in a hurry."

During her two years in the South Pacific, Sakryd, with other nurses, served at a base on Guadalcanal at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's request, helped transport 3,000 wounded from Kwajalein in a gradual evacuation, and once learned that a rumor had floated about that she had been killed in New Guinea. "Fortunately, I had just got out of that New Guinea base before an air raid," she says.

Her most exciting mission was out of Tarawa on a C-54, the Melbourne resident says.

"Four hours out the two left engines quit, and the two right engines began sputtering. Our pilot told us to prepare for ditching," recalls Sakryd, who never learned to swim. "But we got back to Tarawa safely, where we later learned the fuel had been sabotaged."

Wilkes had been a registered nurse in Vicksburg, Miss., when the United States entered World War II. She enlisted in Texarkana, Texas, where she had been working in a defense plant hospital. It was with great difficulty that she received a release from the defense plant to enter the service.

Sent first to Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, Wilkes was then sent to Bowman Field for Air Evacuation School. "I was in the last class to graduate from Bowman," she remembers. "I

recall that once we had to pass in review before Eleanor Roosevelt."

Wilkes remembers that during training at Bowman a mock bombardment was enacted. "They bombarded with flour and if we were hit by the flour we got a demerit and a ride back in the ambulance."

After Bowman, Wilkes was assigned to Memphis, Tenn., where she helped evacuate patients who had been brought from overseas. "We took them to other hospitals around the country."

She saw service in Hawaii, Manila, Guam and San Francisco and flew C-54s around the Pacific on long, tiring flights. Her most memorable experience was "taking the boys who had been on the Bataan Death March out of Manila to Hawaii."

Wilkes says that most C-54s carried just one nurse and two technicians. Among their duties: irrigating colostomies, giving plasma, changing dressings on wounds.

Wilkes got out of the Army when World War II ended, but returned to the services in 1950, joining the U.S. Air Force. She retired in 1968. During peacetime she saw service in Europe.

This weekend, Cerasale, Sakryd and Wilkes will have a chance to reminisce with other air evacuation nurses and to participate in a luncheon meeting with Air Force Gen. Wilma Vaught.

Vaught will discuss the memorial monument that is planned for the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. The monument will honor all women who served in the military in World War II.



806th MED AIR EVAC SQDN, LOUISVILLE, 1992

Front row, Gerry Brier, Phyllis Choura, Jean Tierney, Dorothy Worden, Pat Mello,
 second row, Bill Brier, Shirley King, Marion Shulze, Ethel Simpson, Ruth Butler,
 Dorothy Barnes, Charles Pieper,
 back row, Gene King, Ken Shulze, Dick Simpson, Edith Rothenberg,
 Ed Tierney, Ken Worden.

Photo taken by Kathryn Varmec, Dorothy Barnes' daughter.



Membury Tower
 from the left: Lt Harold Meiore, Lt Mary Taggart, Lt
 Katherine Millane, Lt Denzil Nagle, Lt Ethel Carlson,
 in front, Dr David Doyle in back, one of right is not
 identified.



Nurses and Medics of the 815th MAES
 Living room of Nurses quarters at Membury.

THE 67th (now 567th) AAF BAND

During WWII the 67th AAF Band was stationed at Bowman Field. They performed at the Kentucky Derby in 1942, at dances in downtown Louisville and at the Officer's Club. A few of these fellows contacted me about joining the 79th at Louisville. I felt the more the better so I sent them details on the Holiday Inn. They were able to get about a dozen together counting wives, so they decided to have their own dinner when the 79th and the 806th had their dinner. They attended the dedication, evidently this was their first reunion, and showed a lot of exuberances when they were together. Remember when we got together the first time in 1981?



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HISTORY OF WWII, FNA

Charlotte McFall Fallon and Mary Oldehoff Stehle began bringing Flight nurses together in 1948.

For several years, Mary and Charlotte persevered in getting the Flight Nurses to reunite. During some years, the meetings were held every 2 to 3 months. Occasionally, flight surgeons and technicians joined the group.



Charlotte McFall Fallon



Mary Oldehoff Stehle

In 1963, a 20th Anniversary meeting was held at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. For many of us, it was an introduction to the "new" air evacuation plane - oh, so much more space, and the new technology on board was a delight to behold.

Mary Oldehoff Stehle coordinated the meeting; Mildred Osmun Beeman was elected President and Mary O. Stehle, Treasurer. The dues was \$5.00.

In 1966, Kay Shafer Mayhue compiled the first roster she was elected President. Kay served as President, 1966-1973.

In 1968, Leora Stroup, Kay Shafer Mayhue and Mary Oldehoff Stehle presented the Story of Early Air Evacuation to the flight nurses at the School of Air Evacuation at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. A movie was made of the program and placed in a time capsule. In 1986, Mary O. Stehle, Denzil Nagle and Ethel C. Cerasale planned and carried out a meeting at Cocoa Beach/Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. Ethel was appointed as temporary chair, Denzil as vice-chair and Mary as Secretary.



Denzil Nagle



Ethel C. Cerasale

1988 the first "national" meeting was held in San Antonio, Texas. About 200 nurses plus husbands and guests attended. Co-Chairs Margaret Raffa and Claire Murphy and the committee did a super job for this historic meeting. It was voted to incorporate in Florida as a non-profit, veteran organization. Ethel Carlson Cerasale was designated President and Denzil Nagle and Mary Stehle agreed to continue in their respective roles.

Note: A more complete summary of the history of WWII FNA can be found on page 5 of THE STORY OF AIR EVACUATION, 1942-1989.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Elected in Louisville



Standing: Jean Foley Tierney, Ct.; Irene Burch, Fl.; Liberty Sakryd, Fl., Membership Chair; Gerry Dishroon Brier, Wy., Treasurer; Ethel Cerasale, Fl., Past Pres., Agnes Flaherty, Me., Secretary; VerNell Bjerke, N.Y.;
Seated: Frances Crabtree, Wa., 1st V.P.; Jane Haynes, Fl., Pres.

The Board met at the home of the President on Sept. 23, 1992.

Decisions made were:

- . Dorothy Errair was authorized to sign checks as a 2nd signature.
- .. Life membership was reaffirmed and clarified. It is available to all members 65 yrs. of age and over for \$50.00.
- ... Voted to send the next Newsletter to all persons listed in the roster. Membership envelopes, which will include renewal and dues requirements, will also be sent.

Reimbursement of Board Members: It was voted to reimburse 50% of the cost of travel and hotel (2 days) to those Board members who wished to be reimbursed for the next Board meeting only.

The Board will meet in San Diego the first week in March 1993.



**Diversity in Age,
Unity in Purpose**

