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# WWII FNA NEWSLETTER

WORLD WAR II FLIGHT NURSE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter of March 2010

RESPONSE SHEET-PLEASE FILL IN AND RETURN  
ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY OR COMMENT ON....  
ANYTHING AT ALL.... I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Today's date 11/18/10 Your Squad # 001 last

First, middle, maiden, last name Helena Ilic Tynan

**Do YOU Want a list: of Active Members with Addresses, Complete Deceased list, A list of Missing Nurses that you may know where they are...**

**Please .. just ask..... to expensive to mail to people who don't want a list...**

**HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED FROM LAST NEWSLETTER**      yes      no  
**IF YES.. Please fill in:**

New address here: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number changed      yes      NO  
New telephone number is \_\_\_\_\_

Did you give me your birth date?      YOURS IS Note:

Please write back..... I WOULD LIKE TO SAY..... Could you please let  
Ada Marie Frick know  
Thanks!

Dorothy & Melinda,  
I am Sean Tynan, Helena's son. I am writing to  
let you know of her death on Nov. 2, 2010. She died  
very peacefully. For her family and Helena it was a blessing as  
she suffered from a progressive dementia for the last  
17 years. I am sending to you her obituary, she was very  
proud of her military service. Thankyou.

**MAIL TO:**

**DOROTHY ERRAIR**  
**1600 Tamarac Trail**  
**Tavares, Florida 32778**  
**352-343-7474**



Here are two websites that have info about her:  
<http://www.enter.net/~rocketeer/13th aaf/13th nurse.html>  
<http://obit.porter-pring.com> → then do search.





# **TYNAN**

Helena Illic Tynan of San Antonio, TX, age 89, born Dec. 1 1920, passed away on the 2nd day of November 2010. Helena was born in Croatia on the island of Oto Krk, in the village of Omisalj, where she was raised until the age of nine. The promise of a better life led her and her family to the ship Saturnia which carried them to New York City at the time of the great depression in 1929. Her earliest memory of reaching America was standing on deck with her two younger brothers telling them to "do as I do" and salute the statue of liberty as it became visible through the fog. Her new life as an U.S. citizen began in Hell's Kitchen where she learned to become a proud American. She attended public schools in Manhattan eventually graduating from Columbia University with a degree in Industrial Nursing. Her pioneering service as a WWII flight nurse in the South Pacific, participating not only in active combat zones, but in a never before specialized position in the new aero medical evacuation system of U.S. soldiers, exemplified her love for her new country. She graduated to the rank of 2nd Lieut. in the 13th Army Air Force air evacuation squadron, was one of the first women ever in combat in the history of the U.S., and awarded the Air Medal for her services. After the war, a nursing program at Randolph AFB brought her to San Antonio, Texas. Helena fell in love with the city and initiated the new Health Services Program at City Public Service where she met her future husband, Harold A. Tynan. A life of activity and giving back led her to be involved in many San Antonio groups such as St. Monica's Guild, was a past president of Castle Hill's Women's Club, and, along with her husband, was a founding member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Harold Augustine Tynan. Mrs. Tynan leaves behind her three sons, Harold A. (Hal) Tynan Jr., Robert Sean Tynan and wife Cathy, David Liam Tynan and wife Vikki; and five grandchildren Tara, Katie, Shauna, Kyle, and Troy Tynan; along with numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family and friends. The family wishes to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the wonderful staff at Incarnate Word retirement community and Vitas Hospice along with her loving personal care providers. Viewing will begin on Friday, November 5, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Porter Loring on McCullough.

ROSARY  
FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 5, 2010  
7:30 P.M.  
PORTER LORING CHAPEL

MASS OF THE  
RESURRECTION  
SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 6, 2010  
9:30 A.M.  
OUR LADY OF GRACE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
223 E. SUMMIT

Celebrant will be Rev. Bill Davis, Helena's nephew. Interment in San Fernando Cemetery II with Military Honors. Reception will follow in The Madonna Room at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Association. You are invited to sign The guestbook at [www.porterloring.com](http://www.porterloring.com) Arrangements with:

**PORTER LORING**  
MORTUARIES  
1101 McCULLOUGH 227-8221  
[www.porterloring.com](http://www.porterloring.com)

# **THE JUNGLE AIR FORCE** **OF WW II 1942 - 1945**

## FLIGHT NURSE

Female Flight Nurses who flew with the troop carrier squadrons during World War II faced the very same dangers the men faced. 500, out of the 6,500 nurses on duty at the height of the war, were assigned to air evacuation flight status. Thirteen Flight Nurses were killed during the war in air crashes. Sixteen medals were awarded posthumously to nurses who died as a result of enemy fire. Overall, nurses of all service groups were awarded 1,619 medals, citations, and commendations during the war. This emphasizes the tremendous job performed by

these women under all manner of conditions including combat. In a time of pain and horror they were the "angels" of the battlefield.



*Pretty Lt. Helena T. Ilic, flight nurse serving in Philippines, wearing Air Medal with added cluster.*

Flight nurses were selected from nurses on duty with the Army Air Force hospitals. The recommendation of the senior flight surgeon in their command was also required. Their first difficulty was passing a flight physical. They then went to the School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, in Louisville, Kentucky. The candidates then had to complete a very difficult 8 week course. They learned how to load and unload patients to and from a transport plane. Military training included survival skills, how to use a parachute, and some combat techniques, as they would be required to fly into combat areas. Upon completion of training, the nurses were assigned to Air Evacuation Units overseas, where they flew as crewmembers aboard troop carrier C-47s. These troop carriers flew in and out of combat areas in every theater of war exposing these Flight Nurse to combat dangers that had never been experienced by American women as a group. Hundreds of wounded GIs who would have died on the battlefield in previous wars were saved due to the heroic actions of these women.



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