



ONE OF THE FIRST PATIENTS to be evacuated in the 7th air force's new ambulance plane, a reconverted C-46, is shown in this picture. He is Warrant Officer Gary B. Standardt, of the 13th AAF rescue boat squadron, who was evacuated from Wai-
mea, Kauai, while suffering from cellulitis infection of the right ankle. He was flown off the island of Kauai to Wheeler field, and then taken to North Sector general hospital at Schofield barracks. He is shown being treated while in flight by Lt. Ludmillea Ferenz, army flight nurse.

Army Hospital Plane Serves All Islands

1945 or 1946?

An army air forces C-46 ambulance completely equipped to evacuate patients from the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Molokai and any other island in the area with landing facilities has been put into operation by the 7th air force, according to Brig. Gen. Thomas D. White, commanding.

"Although the army's two general hospitals in this area are both located on the island of Oahu, military personnel stationed on the adjoining islands are assured of speedy attention in case of injury or serious illness which necessitates evacuation to one of the hospitals," said Gen. White.

"The airplane will make possible general hospital medical attention within two to three hours in any type of emergency case, from anywhere in the territory of Hawaii."

The ambulance plane began operation in time to participate in the recent rescue work required after the tidal wave struck the islands.

The plane took air force medical personnel and emergency supplies to the islands of Hawaii and Kauai to assist in emergency treatment.

The plane's equipment includes two adjustable hospital beds, securely attached to the floor and fitted with inner-spring mattresses that are in turn secured to the beds; eight adjustable airline seats for the use of ambulatory patients; and a ready supply of blood plasma, drugs and medicines to be used in treatment while in flight.

The plane is stationed at Wheeler field so that evacuees can be easily and conveniently transported by ambulance to North Sector general hospital at Schofield Barracks. It is operated under the supervision of Col. Daird Tate, commanding officer of Wheeler field.

Although designed specifically for the evacuation of 7th air force personnel the plane is available to navy, army and marine personnel as well as civilian emergency cases.



Lou Ferenz as a Flight Nurse in 1943—



taken at
Lou Ferenz Rice, ~~last year~~
1994 Reunion
The lady is still full of vim,
vigor and vitality. *Oct. 1994*

She still fits into her World War II uniform

by Lloyd Cory

Villager Ludmilla "Lou" Ferenz Rice, unlike about 99.44% of World War II vets, can still wear her uniform, which is over half a century old.

Lou had aimed at becoming an airline stewardess. In those days a stewardess also had to be a nurse. So she went into nurse's training at New York's St. Luke's Hospital.

But before graduation the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The government froze nurses out of becoming stewardesses because they were greatly needed for the war effort.

So Lou, at 22, joined the Air Corps part of the U.S. Army Nurse corps. She underwent basic training at Mitchell Field air base in New York. She wasn't gung ho about digging foxholes, sleeping outdoors, wearing gas masks and other tough duties, but she gamely endured them.

She got her commission as a second lieutenant. (Later she got upped to first lieutenant.) At first she served in Stockton, CA and Kearney, NE.

Then the coveted gold wings were pinned on her uniform and she flew to Hickham air field, her new home base, in Hawaii. From there Lou and other medical people island-hopped, picking up seriously wounded men from Guam, Saipan, Johnston, Kwajalein, Tinian and Leyte and Manila, Luzon in the Philippines and later Japan.

Lou says she is the only nurse who still has her flight log, showing all stops, times, mileages, names of pilots, number of patients carried and dropped off. She also kept all her military records. She says she was a "memento collector;" her husband says she is a "pack rat."

In the states she flew in C-47s. Overseas she flew in C-54s, which were larger and carried 40 litters.

As she flew she cared for shell-shocked cases and men with multiple wounds. She talked one of the former out of opening a door and jumping out of a plane in flight.

Once Gen. Douglas MacArthur took her 30th Squadron's planes to evacuate folk who had been Japanese POWs for years.

A chapter on Lou Frenz appears in *Women in America's Wars*. The book's author was a former patient of Lou's.

Last year a World War II Flight Nurses' Reunion was held in Tulsa. Old friends could only fit into their old caps. When they saw Lou wearing her old uniform some claimed that they hated her.

In October Lou went to the "Women in Military Service to America" dedication and memorial at Arlington Cemetery, Washington, D.C. It was a quality program, featuring Al and Tipper Gore, Janet Reno, Kenny Rogers, heads of the military services, Loretta Swit and Connie Stevens. They honored women in the military today.

Next year's reunion may be held

at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs.

Lou was a widow for years. For 20 years she worked as a nurse in Whittier, CA. Then she became a Red Cross nurse in charge of Bloodmobiles, which job she held from '74 to '85.

Then she met Banner Rice in the Civil Air Patrol in Van Nuys. (The CAP performs many search and rescue operations.) They married in '87.

They read about HSV in *Modern Maturity*, which named it as one of the 10 best places to retire. They bought a lot in '91 and moved to the Village in '92. They love it here.

Banner had his basic training at Camp Roberts, CA went to OCS school in Ft. Benning, GA and served at Camp Croft, SC and Camp Robinson, AR. Then he joined a heavy weapons unit of the 80th Division, in Germany. He came out of the Army as a captain, then later retired from the reserves as a full colonel, after becoming a licensed pilot before his 60th birthday.

The Rices have served their country well.

