

1st Lt. Edith E. Brown N 730399
806th Air Evac. U. S. M. A. B. T. Sgd.
A. P. O. 133 C/O P. M. N. Y., N. Y.



Mrs Thomas Treleven
3306 Gratiot
Port Huron
Michigan

Edith E. Brown



Edith Brown Rothenberg

Memorial Photos Flowers

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Birth: Oct. 8, 1918
Port Huron
St. Clair County
Michigan, USA
Death: Jan. 28, 2002
San Antonio
Bexar County
Texas, USA

Daughter of Harold Brown and Bessie Farr.
Preceded in death by her husband, Paul in
1957; a brother, Clayton and a sister, Evelyn.

Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US
Army in July 1941, was one of the first flight
nurses. Served in France several days after the
Normandy invasion. Transferred to US Air
Force; was honorably discharged a Captain in
July 1948.

Awards: EAME Medal with 4 bronze star,
American Campaign Medal, World War II
Victory Medal, American Defense Medal and Air
Medal with 1 OLC.

Re-entered Air Force in October 1957 and
served in Korea and Vietnam. Retired in Jun
1970 with the rank of Colonel. Other awards:
Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force
Commendation Medal, National Defense
Service Medal with 1 BSS, Longevity Award
with 4 OLC and an Air Force Outstanding Unit
Award.

Burial:
[Arlington National Cemetery](#)
Arlington
Arlington County
Virginia, USA
Plot: Nurse's Section

Created by: [Paula J](#)
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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?

Please return April 10

Dear Mrs Treleaven

Received a V-mail from you today dated Mar. 26, I've received others I think that aren't answered yet.

The climate is beautiful but a person doesn't have a chance to enjoy it these days. The trees are green and the fields are all shades with different crops. Have been working everyday, seeing a lot of Germany and France, it's beautiful this time of year.

I saw bomb damage in England but it's mild to what one sees in German towns, saw one today that there wasn't a thing left of it, but a few scattered brick walls. Have had several combat trips lately, received the Air Medal some time ago and now have enough to add a cluster or two. These days have been very exciting (that's not the right expression) anyway one comes back at night worn out and not from caring for patients. I took two days off to rest, the first time I ever have, when I could have been working, but I feel better for it. The girls are so tired, we snap at each other over nothing. We get up at such irregular early hours that I can't even hear the clock, just sleep like dead till someone wakes me up.

I have three beautiful bouquets in my room, that came from Paris. One with lilacs and pink carnations, one of tulips,

and one of narcissis, jonquils & daisy. The fellow that I went out with, that shamed me Paris, a couple months ago - got them for me. The one that looks like Gary Cooper - think I wrote you about him. He thinks he should get me one of these Paris hats, he already has it picked out - just waiting for me to come to town. You & he would get along, but good, he knows who made what antique china & when - amazes me, cause the only china I know about, is white enamel bed pans, various types & models.

Remember the toilet I wrote you about over a year ago, well there's many more peculiar styles, think I could write a book on those, that have that other model beat. We've had more laughs and been so puzzled over the various contraptions in the various so called bath-rooms, there's some gageets we haven't figured out except they're not to be played with cause the water might shoot to the ceiling as some have discovered by pulling the chain.

I'm reading Lena Geyer by Marcia Davenport and am enjoying it. She's an opera singer and in her travels goes to places that are familiar to me, she even speaks of a restaurant where I've been in London. She does most of her singing in places I'll probably never get to but some I've seen from the air. Maybe others wouldn't like the book, because I like it more for the places she goes than what she does.

April 11.
Sitting in the plane here a few minutes before take off. Left my book home today so maybe I'll get some letters written if riding isn't too rocky.

I had a fresh egg for breakfast and yesterday an egg and an orange. Sun. wrote a bunch of the officers came over with a bunch of eggs (they were acquired from the French) and pop corn and some Scotch. Early in the evening we had drinks & pop corn, played the victrola and danced, and later we had fried eggs. The men have more pop than we do cause they only work every other day but we go everyday. I've got more flying time in 10 days than I usually get in a month or two but we're getting more nurses I think and this probably won't keep up too long - I hope. It's very interesting but we need more than work to exist on.

Yesterday I received a picture of a girl friend, nurse, I was in training with. Later lived with in Chi. and she came in the Army with me so we were together about 5 years. It was a wedding picture, she looked so sweet and she married a fellow she went with when we were in training so that makes it all the more interesting knowing both of them.

You think it's time I should make a visit home, believe the next visit will be a permanent one, 'cause it will be two years in July - think we've over stayed this one.

But Tommy looks swell in Uniform.
Have to stop till we get level in the air. ---
It's certainly pretty today. There's a retogravure
sections of the Detroit news aboard today, just
finished looking at the pictures. Certainly would
like to see Tommy but hope he doesn't have to
come over here, yet it's rich in experiences.
He could find me thru the Red Cross in Paris
or just by asking other nurses that fly, those
that wear wings or if he's ever near where there's
a 47's flying - ask for the 806th Air Evac.

Haven't seen Pete Lewanski yet and
where he is now - I hope he's O.K. He's a para trooper,
he was hurt in Normandy but from what he
writes I guess not too severely, don't know if
he ever told his family - cause I hear from
Betty & she never mentioned it, so I didn't
either and won't until I see him.

Well this is enough for this time.

Love to all -
Edith

P.S. am saving my ink in my pen for the
patients records - ~~cause please the pencil.~~
If you can find one of those little traveling
ink bottles would like one, had one but broke
it - it was a small bottle in a wooden container
with a screw top - I ~~try~~ tightened it to tight
and split the wood.

Please save these clippings for me - someday
I want to build a scrapbook! Those air
evac. pictures in one of the recent life magazines
are of one of our girls (recent - about 2 months, I guess)

almost made us all laugh and the bride kept biting biting her lip to keep from laughing during the ceremony. One of the nurses made minitires for the cake, which were perfect, even to a wee bouquet of colored flowers, the little man had on an officers uniform, shirt, tie, even put insignia on it by embroidering it. We appreciate everything and enjoy it because we all have to improvise and make do and the results were amazing.

I didn't do much, I pressed all her gowns etc, washed & ironed and packed her things after I sewed the gowns shut & the sleeves of her ^{robe.} ^(Countess) ~~reg.~~ I'm a little tired tonight, running up and down stairs, will be glad when our house is clean. It's beautiful around here, woods on all sides.

Regards to the family.
Edith.

July 25
Dear Mrs T -
It's been quite some time since I've received any mail from you - am beginning to wonder if you are ill, I hope not. Our mail isn't coming very good at present.

We moved yesterday, now are only 10 miles from Paris. We've got a big old hunting lodge, that was Napoleon's for the nurses quarters. It's an immense building, layed out funny peculiar halls and stairs etc. It's not very nice, no furniture, plenty of dirt, many broken windows, few lavatory facilities but in time, if we're here long enough we'll have it better. This morning five French women and a man started scrubbing.

There's a bunch of Army dogs near here, they certainly make an awful howl occasionally. (Can't remember if its 26's or 25's.)

Yesterday while moving, I was riding in the front seat of a truck and a woman on a bicycle rode diagonally from across the road into the front fender, she's hurt but not too seriously. The bad part is, the court investigation, I saw all kinds of policemen (French) yesterday, then M.P.'s. then a Provost Marshall. Today I had to write a statement and was interviewed by another Provost Marshall, might even have to go to court - such things are a mess.

Yesterday was a bad day anyway!

The 3rd one of our nurses had a beautiful wedding in Paris, in a beautiful mansion. She wore a gown - we really had a time fixing her up. She was going to be married in uniform but when she wrote home for lingerie she asked for a dinner dress and they sent her a white jersey, so after searching around for things to put with it and making things we finally got her fixed up. The dress had a narrow cold kid belt, she borrowed some long gloves (white) and wore a gold bracelet. Her evening slippers were silver, it took half a day in Paris to find the quilt to paint them. The head gear was difficult to find, they finally bought some white imitation flowers, the petals of the flowers were of little white feathers - then found a piece of silk net with a pretty border, guess it was supposed to be a table cover anyway the bride looked perfect. She carried roses - I caught the bouquet. The maid of honor wore a formal, light blue taffeta (spell) - an old one of the bride's. The groom didn't know she was wearing white - he had such a funny expression and said something to the best man when he saw her walking in. His reaction

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2001

WWII flight nurses gather

By KATHERINE ULLMER

Dayton Daily News

WRIGHT-PATERSON 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.