

Flying Nurses

EVACUATE WOUNDED

by AIR



HEAD NURSE: Miss Frances Morgan of Dallas, Texas, heads the group of nurses who arrived here recently to aid in evacuation of wounded soldiers. (BRIEF photo.)

A HUGE, four-engined Skymaster C-54 settled down in Hawaii, loaded with American soldiers who only 36 hours before were in the bloody invasion assault on Makin island. The men were flown from Makin by a Navy plane and relayed to a Honolulu hospital for treatment. It was a trip covering more than 3,000 miles and is considered a record for air evacuation.

Aboard the airliner were three army nurses, especially trained for this type of work at Bowman field, Kentucky, part of the group of 25 nurses who arrived in Hawaii recently for the express purpose of bringing wounded soldiers back safely to home bases.

These "bomber hostesses" figure greatly into the future plans of the 7th AAF, now that the drive to erase the Jap blight from the Pacific has started, and hundreds of girls such as these are being graduated almost weekly from mainland schools to help and comfort American fighting men on all world fronts.

As 1st Lt Frances Morgan, of Dallas, Texas, chief nurse of this group remarked a few days ago: "Our work is just beginning, and we expect to be in the thick of things as long as one enemy soldier is left in the Pacific."

The ease and care with which this air evacuation, the first to operate in the Pacific area, is handled by these young and capable girls (age 23 to 35) has brought nothing but praise from high army officials who have watched them at work first hand.

In a statement issued to a press correspondent who made one of these trips with the girls, Col Andrew Smith, chief flight surgeon for the 7th AAF had this to say:

"The sight of women nurses close to the battle area was not only a pleasant surprise but a boon to morale, and all of us, especially the soldiers, will be eternally grateful for the work they are doing."

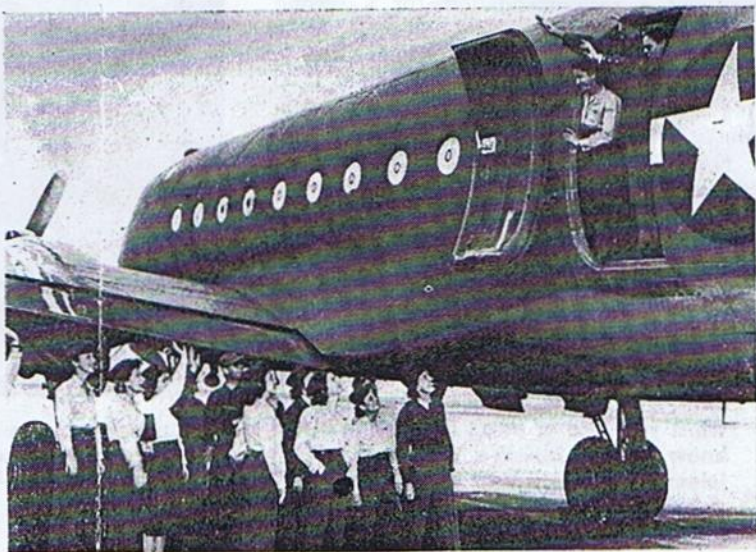
The local unit which consists of nurses, medical officers and enlisted technicians, was the 9th group to graduate from the school and is commanded by Major A. D. Henderson of Mobile, Ala.



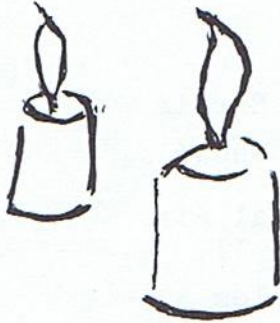
BACK FROM THE BATTLEFRONT: These young and comely Army flying nurses, pictured above, recently returned from a flight Down Under where they cared for wounded soldiers stricken during the invasion assault on the Gilberts. Reading left to right, Lts Madellne Harris, Agnes Flaherty, Mary Esther Pratt and Eleanor Hoppeck. (BRIEF photo.)



WOUNDED RETURN: Makin casualties, arriving at APO 953, are removed from a hospital transport plane in quick time. (Signal Corps photo.)



MERCY FLIGHT: Lts Lynn Doherty, Emma Raspel and Technician Carl Soukup, wave goodbye to fellow workers from the huge Skymaster, which a few minutes later roared down the runway to take flying nurses to the aid of wounded service men in the South Pacific. Some evacuation cases were returned to Honolulu in less than 40 hours. (BRIEF photo.)



REMEMBERING*

Fragments put together
make whole memories
to warm us later
when our heart is cold.

Little vista
of perfect memories
to console us
through imperfect days.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Esther Brubach 815th | LaVerne Ditmore 809th |
| Reta Farley 828th | Ivalee Holtz 801st |
| Lila Jorgenson 809th-June '92 | Wilma Lytle 807th-1991 |
| Marrion Sallade 811th-Apr!'92 | Blanche Solomon 822-830 Aug.'92 |
| Mary White 811th-Aug.'92 | Eleanor M. Hoppock 809th Feb.10,'93 |

Note: As our former colleagues and friends leave this world, we each have special memories.

Eleanor Hoppock was ~~my~~ ^{use} roommate at Hickam Field, 1943-1945. We shared frightening events, fun times and a mutual pride with other colleagues that we could serve our country during a time of need.

In recent years, Eleanor and I collaborated in writing about the 809th and she helped me with this Newsletter. She inspired the Mary McHugh story in the Nov. 1991 issue and laughed a lot when I read her Dorothy Errair's account of The Italian Mules which is in this Newsletter.

Eleanor's integrity, talents and her great sense of humor will continue to inspire me. Incidentally, the sketch of the candles which head our remembrances is Eleanor's. When I asked her for advice about the best way to acknowledge this section, she said, "keep it simple" and sat down and drew what you see.

Agnes Flaherty, Editor.

*written by Barbara Haswell Penley, Saco, Me.

THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY FOUNDATION - THE WALL OF LIBERTY

The Foundation is leading the Wall of Liberty campaign to record the names of the 5 million American ETO veterans from all branches of the armed services and from all ranks, private to general. The Wall which will be built in Caen is a testament to mankind's shared responsibility for freedom. It represents the spirit of American people who were prepared to fight for that freedom.

VerNell Bjerke, 828th, began the registration for women of the ETO by symbolically placing the name of her friend and ETO Flight Nurse, Virginia Garnett, on The Wall of Liberty.

If you'd like more information or would like to register (\$40) call 1-800-WW2-VETS.

WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

WIMSA has final approval of the design concept for the Memorial. Reminder: Any women who has served in the U.S. uniformed Services is eligible to be listed. Personal experiences and photos may accompany registration forms and will be electronically archived for use in the computerized Register that will be the heart of the memorial. Call 1-800-472-5883 for more information.

