

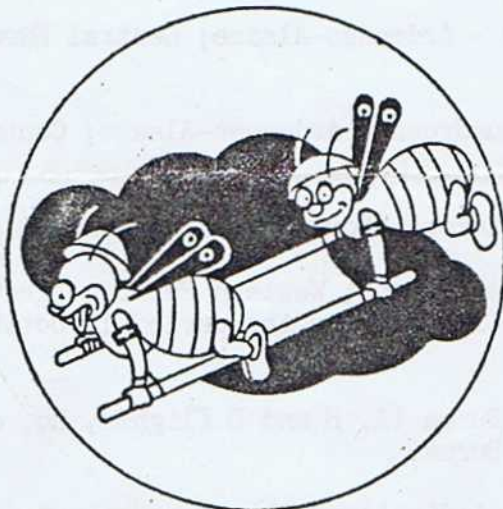
THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR CORPS (USAAF) INSIGNIA COLLECTORS AND STUDY GROUP

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ARMY AIR FORCES SCHOOL OF AIR EVACUATION



One of the least known and little publicized organizations of World War Two was the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation. Established at Bowman Field, Kentucky in December 1942, the mission was to train flight nurses and enlisted medical technicians to care for the sick and wounded being air evacuated from the battle areas to larger hospitals in the European and Pacific theaters as well as to the Continental United States. The first class graduated on 18 February 1943, the first such class that would eventually train roughly 1300 Flight Nurses and many enlisted technicians. The school was relocated to Gunter Field, Alabama, to Randolph Field and finally to Brooks Field, Texas. The school was among the assets transferred to United States Air Force control on 26 July 1947 by the National Security Act of 1947.

A total of 18 Medical Air Evacuation squadrons served overseas with campaign credits and/or unit citations as follows:

801st Squadron - Bismarck Archipelago; Leyte, Luzon, New Guinea, Northern Solomons, Southern Philippines and Western Pacific (ground). Received the Philippine Presidential unit citation for the period 17 October 1944- 4 July 1945, GO 47-50.

802nd Squadron - Naples-Foggia; Northern Appennines; Po Valley, Rome-Arno; Sicily; Southern France and Tunisia (ground). Received Meritorious Unit Citation for the period 12 March 1943 - 15 May 1945, GO 147; Hq, 12th Air Force, 3 July 1945.

803rd Squadron - China Defensive; India - Burma

804th Squadron - Bismarck Archipelago; Leyte, Luzon, New Guinea; Western Pacific (ground). Received Meritorious Unit Citation for the period 2 Jan - 25 June

1945, GO 1813, Hq, Far East Air Forces, 15 August 1945. Received Philippine Presidential Unit citation for the period 17 October 1944 - 4 July 1945, GO 47-50.

806th Squadron - Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France; Rhineland

807th Squadron - Naples-Foggia; Northern Appennines; Po Valley, Rome-Arno; Southern France. Received Meritorious Unit Citation for the period 6 October 1943 - 15 May 1945, GO 147, Hq, 12th Air Force, 3 July 1945.

810th, 814th and 815th Squadrons - Ardennes-Alsace; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland.

811th and 813th Squadrons - Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Normandy, Northern France; Rhineland.

816th, 817th and 818th Squadrons - Ardennes-Alsace; Central Europe; Normandy; Rhineland.

819th Squadron - Central Europe; Normandy; Rhineland.

820th Squadron - Leyte; New Guinea; Western Pacific (ground). Received Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for the period 17 October 1944 - 4 July 1945, GO 47-50.

821st Squadron - Central Burma (A, B and D flights, Hq, only); China Offensive (C flight only); India - Burma.

830th Squadron - From all indications this squadron was engaged in long range evacuations and is not credited with any one campaign. Received Meritorious Unit Citation for the period 1 May - 30 June 1945, GO 26, Hq, Air Transport Command, 10 October 1945.

Those of you who had occasion to serve in or be air evacuated from Southeast Asia may be familiar with the insignia of the 9th Air Medical Evacuation Squadron, USAF. While not presently in hand I understand that the beer can type of insignia worn by the members of this unit is practically the same as that once worn by the 801st Medical Air Evacuation Squadron. The latter is a redesignation of the war-time 801st. However the device was modified slightly in that the uniforms worn by Donald Duck and his nephews has been changed from olive drab to jungle green. Donald wears an old style aviator's helmet and Dewey wears a green beret. Depicted on the insignia is Donald with feet raised in air while the three nephews strain to carry he and the litter, all superimposed on a silver colored cloud (original was in white), all on a blue disk with red border.

DISTINCTIVE BADGE

On a dark blue disc two honey bees or and sable, wings argent and bearing stars thereon, carrying a brown litter, all in front of a cloud argent.

Symbolism;

Blue and gold are the Air Corps colors. The honey bees, helmeted and wearing red cross armbands are indicative of the industry displayed by personnel of the organization. The litter is symbolic of evacuation of the sick and wounded, the cloud indicative of the area in which the mission was carried out.