

08/20/09

Melinda:

First let me apologize for not answering sooner. Your news letter had risen to the top of the to do list some time ago but if you have a table like mine things keep getting piled up. Anyway thank you for the scarf it is beautiful and wearable. By the way I was not in the 809th but the 90th AEVAC in Ger.

I enjoyed my time in the service and am sorry I wasn't conditioned to keep a journal of my travels. I joined the service in 1943 and was sent to Coral Gables Fla. To the US ARMY AIR CORPS Regional Hospital which had been the Miami Biltmore Hotel in peace time. Interesting place. New patients from oversea (ETO) were brought from the Miami airport to the hospital and admitted thru the lower lobby while those being sent to a hospital near their homes were leaving thru the upper lobby

Our shifts were 7 to 10 and 2 to 7. Night shifts were from 7-7. I rotated in all the different departments. The nurses home was next door to the hospital and had also been a hotel.

I attended Nurses Flight School in June of 44. I think it was six weeks of intensive training. After graduation I returned to Coral Gables and eventually was assigned to a group of flight nurses going overseas. We left Fla. Flew to the Azores to Casablanca where another nurse and I were left because a courier had our seats. Made our way to Cairo and again lost our seats to a courier. Eventually got to Karachi where the commander of the 803rd sent and order we were to be on the next flight out to Chabua which we were.

We lived in tents on a 20x20 foot slab. Had a basha that had a gathering iroom next to the mess hall and I think had washing facilities.

We flew patients from the Ledo Road that ended in India and patients from around bases in that part of India to Calcutta or Karachi. We were also stationed ~~for a month~~ at the Great Eastern Hotel in Calcutta for a month at a time(rotation) to pick up patients and fly them to Karachi.

I enjoyed my time there and made use of the opportunity to see sights such

as the Taj Mahal . Returned to the States after the war and was discharged. Went back to work for the Public Health Service in Kirkwood Mo. Was recalled in 1950 because of the Korean Crisis. Was sent to Washington D.C. then to Chateauroux France where I spent 18 months and was transferred to the 90th Air Evac in RhineMain Germany for 18th months. We flew all types of patients from all over to Weisbaden.

Returned from overseas in 1955 and went to Mt. Home Ida. In 1957 was accepted at the Walter Reed Hospital's Operating Room School. After graduation was sent to F.E. Warren Air Force Base as OR Supervisor. In 1961 went back to Chateauroux for 3 years, then to Big Willy for my last three years in the service. Retired in 1968 and returned to Cheyenne as I had bought a house there. Worked as supervisor of Central Supply for the Va hospital about 3 yrs and then spent 17 years working in a gift shop.

Have been involved in dogs , obedience training and helping with dog shows. IN that time I had 3 Afghans, 1 Russian Wolfhound and a Skye terrier given to me by a friend who moved to Ca. At the same time I became involved with fiber arts. Mainly weaving and spinning which has continued to the present time. Have won best in show for an evening stole I made and exhibited in the County Fair.

I was in India with Grace Hance, Ruth Detweiler, Fran Tritle and J. Sullivan.

Thanks again for your newsletters I enjoy them.

Sincerely Margaret Bischof

Hi ladies, I received a very nice note that you will be interested in. The note is from;

LtCol (Ret) Margaret L. Bishof

1782 Andover Dr.

Cheyenne, WY 82001

307-634-4752

See is a member of the Society and included this note to me in her dues:

Dear Pat,

I think I must be the Flight Nurse who slipped thru the cracks. I was a Bowman Field at Louisville KY. in June or July of 44. To the best of my memory I was in Class 44E. My picture was taken for graduation but apparently was lost as it never appeared in the book published later in the year. In Dec. 44 I was assigned to the 803rd MAES based at Chabua in Assam India. We flew pts from China, Burma and India to Karachi for the next squadron to fly to Casablanca. We also spent time in Calcutta flying patients from the 234th hospital to Karachi. Returned to the States the last of Dec 45.

I also spent 18 months in Rhine-Main Germany from 54 to 55 with the Air Evac Squadron.

Sure sounds like she is one of yours.

Melinda on a different subject, do you have the list of folks to send a registration package for the convention? They are going to try and get the packages out mid March so need the names and addresses.

Hope you all are doing ok up there with all the snow. Pat