

Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training

Poster, *From Now on It's YOUR Job*

Office of War Information
National Archives and Records Administration (513498)



Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Poster, *More Nurses are Needed!*, 1942

Office of War Information



Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Poster, *You Are Needed Now*, June 1943

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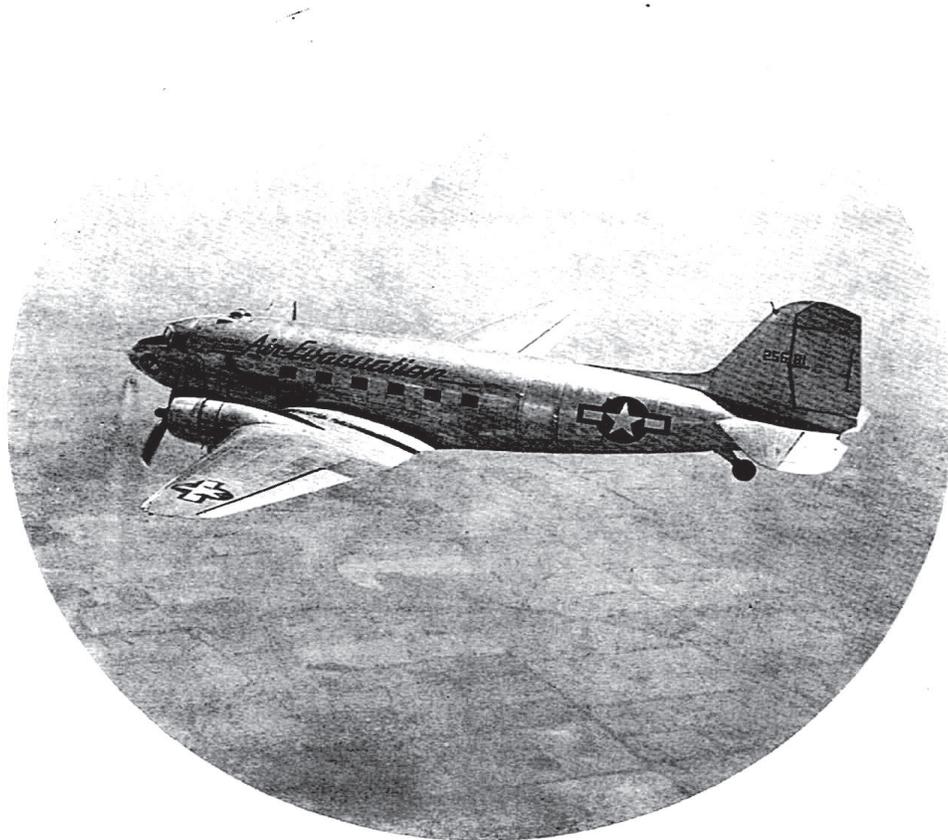
Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, 1944, p1

U.S. Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation

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ARMY AIR FORCES SCHOOL OF AIR EVACUATION



BOWMAN ARMY AIR BASE

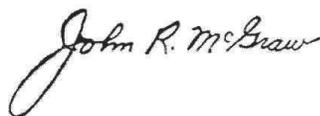
Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p2

To Officers and Enlisted Men of the School of Air Evacuation and all Medical Air Evacuation Transport Squadrons, wherever they may be:

During the past seven months, it has been my privilege to be associated with the School of Air Evacuation. During this period of time, many hundreds of you have come and gone who are now actively performing air evacuation functions, not only in the various theaters of war, but also in the continental United States. Your willingness and desire to improve yourself, expressed by each and everyone of you during your student days at the School, cannot help but leave one with the feeling that you will do your best for air evacuation.

On behalf of the Staff of the School, I wish to express our appreciation for the excellent work you have performed, and to tell you that it is with a great deal of pride that daily we read of your achievements and success. In this publication, while we cannot hope to adequately cover almost two years of the School's existence, an honest attempt has been made to give each of you a souvenir or remembrance of the School of Air Evacuation and your part in its development.



JOHN R. MCGRAW
Colonel, Medical Corps
Commandant

Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p3



Colonel Stevenson, First Commandant of the School.

HISTORY OF AIR EVACUATION

Often referred to as one of medicine's outstanding developments of World War II, Air Evacuation has expanded during World War II with the same speed that has marked the development of our "Astronomical" air force. Today it is saving lives and alleviating suffering on all of our far-flung fighting fronts. Organized at Bowman Field, Louisville, Kentucky, on October 6, 1942, the first Air Evacuation training program was a realization of a dream which medical officers of the Army Air Forces had for many years to train Flight Surgeons, Flight Nurses and surgical technicians. It was still in the experimental stage when Major Scott M. Smith, then Commanding Officer of the School, and his staff of officers and nurses constantly sought new systems and ways to increase the speed and efficiency of the science of evacuation by air. First known as the 349th Air Evacuation Group, and later redesignated the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation on June 25, 1943, and placed under the direct control of the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, this School has during its short history, trained numerous squadrons of officers, nurses and enlisted technicians who are now serving on all major battle fronts of the war. Instrumental in the development of the School and its training program has been Colonel Ralph T. Stevenson, former Commanding Officer of the School, who assumed command of the organization soon after its establishment. Formerly a Dayton, Ohio, general physician, Colonel Stevenson received the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in December, 1942, and was promoted to the rank of full Colonel in October, 1943. He joined the Army in 1933 and after training

Lieutenant Elsie S. Ott, the first nurse to receive the Air Medal, is shown below receiving the award from Brigadier General Fred W. Borum, who made the presentation at Bowman Field.



Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p4

AT BOWMAN FIELD

at numerous Army Schools served in the Philippines from 1938 to 1940.

Present Commanding Officer of the School is Colonel John R. McGraw, 32, former Executive Officer, Surgeon's Office, Second Air Force Headquarters, Colorado Springs, Colorado, who relieved Colonel Stevenson on January 1, 1944. On that date, Colonel Stevenson was transferred to Headquarters, First Troop Carrier Command, Stout Field, Indianapolis, Indiana, where he assumed the duties of Command Surgeon.

An integral part of the program of the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation is the training of Flight Nurses, the Angels of Mercy who ride the skyways to care for the sick and wounded while in flight from battle zones to hospitals far behind the combat lines. A class of these nurses is now graduated from the School of Air Evacuation every eight weeks.

Today the Air Evacuation Nurse receives instructions in more than a dozen different courses which range from aircraft identification to oxygen indoctrination. Upon successfully completing this course she is presented with a diploma and a pair of gold wings which officially designate her as an Air Evacuation Nurse. Although numerous nurses were trained at the School of Air Evacuation and sent to active duty overseas prior to the establishment of a definite curriculum of study, the first class of nurses was not formally graduated until February 18, 1943.

The curriculum at the school is designed to acquaint the three classes of personnel involved—flight surgeons, flight nurses and enlisted men of the Medical Department—with their special responsibilities for administering emergency medical treatment, classifying patients, loading patients on the plane, and treatment while in the air. Training courses are carried along concurrently for each of these three groups so that, at the conclusion of the training period, complete tactical organizations with their complement of doctors, nurses, and enlisted personnel are ready for assignment to overseas duty.

The curriculum of the School has been set up with one primary purpose: to equip each nurse for the vital hours she spends in the plane. All the courses are practical.

Core of the Flight Nurse's course is training in subjects that specially pertain to her work under flying conditions. Her instructors at the School are Flight Surgeons—graduates of the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Texas, which has long been famous for its experimentation with the effects of flying on the human body. Effects of high altitude on a patient's condition must be taken into account; dosage of certain medicines must be increased; others sharply reduced.

The activities of the School of Air Evacuation and its comprehensive training program has attracted international notice and

Lieutenant Ruth M. Gardiner of Indianapolis, Indiana, was the first nurse to be killed in a theater of operation in this war. Lieutenant Gardiner graduated from Philadelphia General Hospital in 1935.

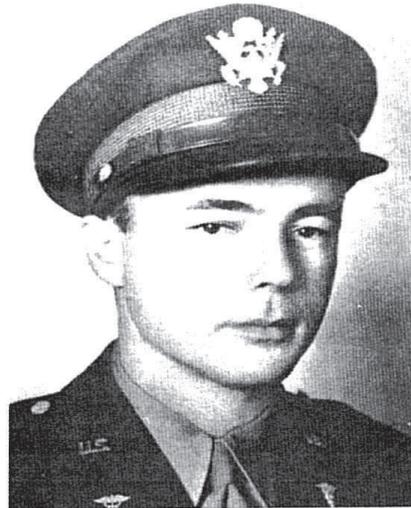


THE COLOR GUARD

acclaim. Many prominent personages have visited the School to inspect its training curriculum. These include Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, General H. H. Arnold, Commanding General of the Army Air Forces, Senora Anesia Machado, Brazilian aviatist, and Lieutenant Colonel Nellie V. Close, Chief Nurse in the Air Surgeon's Office.

Latest figures released from Army Air Forces offices show that 250,000 casualties from every major theater of operation have been successfully evacuated since the outbreak of the war. Playing no small role in this vital function have been the hundreds of pretty, competent Lieutenants of the Army Nurse Corps whose names appear on the following pages of the history of the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field.

First Lieutenant Burton A. Hall was the first flight surgeon from the School of Air Evacuation lost in action in the South Pacific area. Lieutenant Hall graduated from Hahnemann Medical School in 1938.



Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

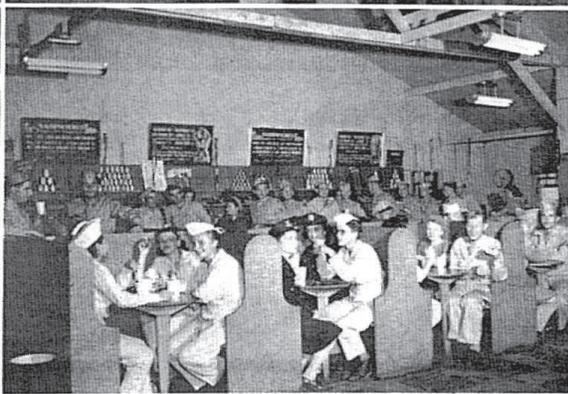
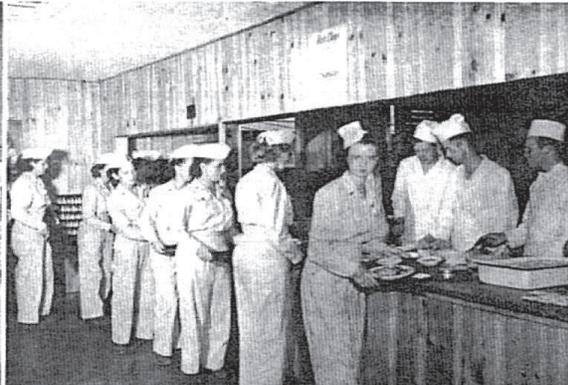
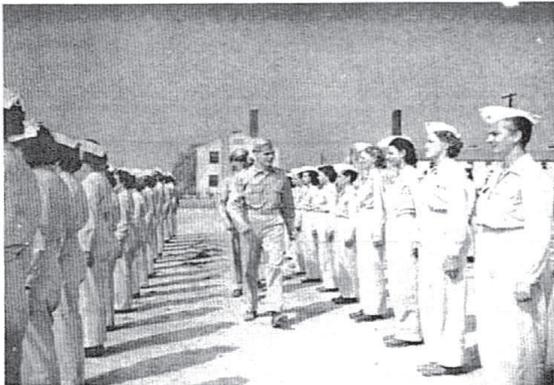
Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p5



BIVOUAC

Explaining the compass during bivouac of the fourth graduating class (upper left) are, left to right, Lieutenant Colonel Stevenson, Second Lieutenants Mary R. Svehula, M. Elizabeth Binkley and Beatrice E. Roberts. During bivouac one may expect to crawl through the most inaccessible places (upper right). There are no beauty parlors on bivouac. The girls shown at the lower left are not primping for dates. The idea is to make oneself look as much as the surrounding terrain as possible. Hard work brings on a tremendous thirst, and the old lister bag (lower right) comes in handy. Coca-Cola wasn't there that time, but the good old drinking water was.

The Air Evacuation nurses line up for inspection (upper left). A different but more popular lineup is that for mess (upper right). During a lull in the seventh inning, the nurses indulge in the pause that refreshes (lower left). During off-moments a popular place with nurses is the Post Exchange (lower right).

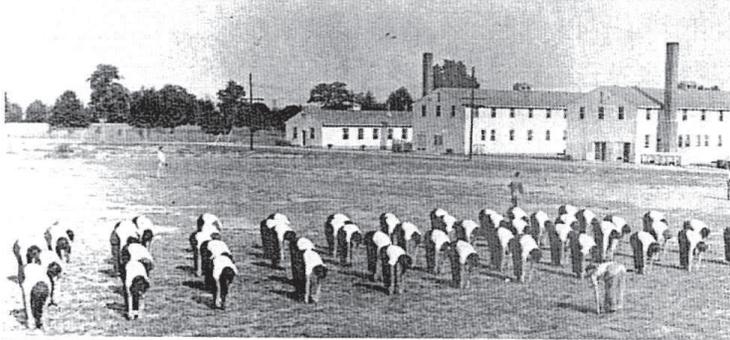


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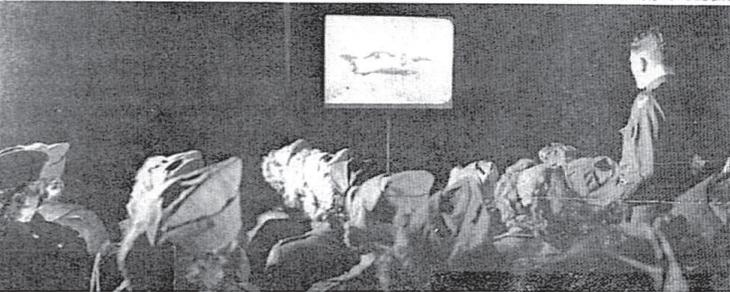
Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p6

CLASSES

Classroom work keeps them occupied for a considerable portion of the time during the courses at the School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field. Many and varied are the subjects covered, and all tend to condition the pupils for the circumstances they will face on the flying fronts. Nurses are briefed before flight (upper left); trained in a mock plane to attend wounds during flight (upper right); given the old one-two-three for added pep (lower); instructed in the proper manner in which to load casualties (center); and are taught to identify planes immediately upon sight (bottom).



Below: Unloading ambulance plane.
Lower: Nurses march after retreat parade.



Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p7



Graduation day finds them eager and ready to go on their first mission. Shown, upper left, flight nurse and surgical technician simulate the evacuation of wounded from the battle zone. Flying nurses go on the air in more ways than one (upper right), while others, in flying togs, scan the horizon with maps in hand (lower left). A nurse cuts her cake while they sing "Happy Birthday" (center), while another proudly displays her wings (lower right).

The nurse fully realizes the importance of discipline in Army life as she stands rigidly for inspection.

Wings for

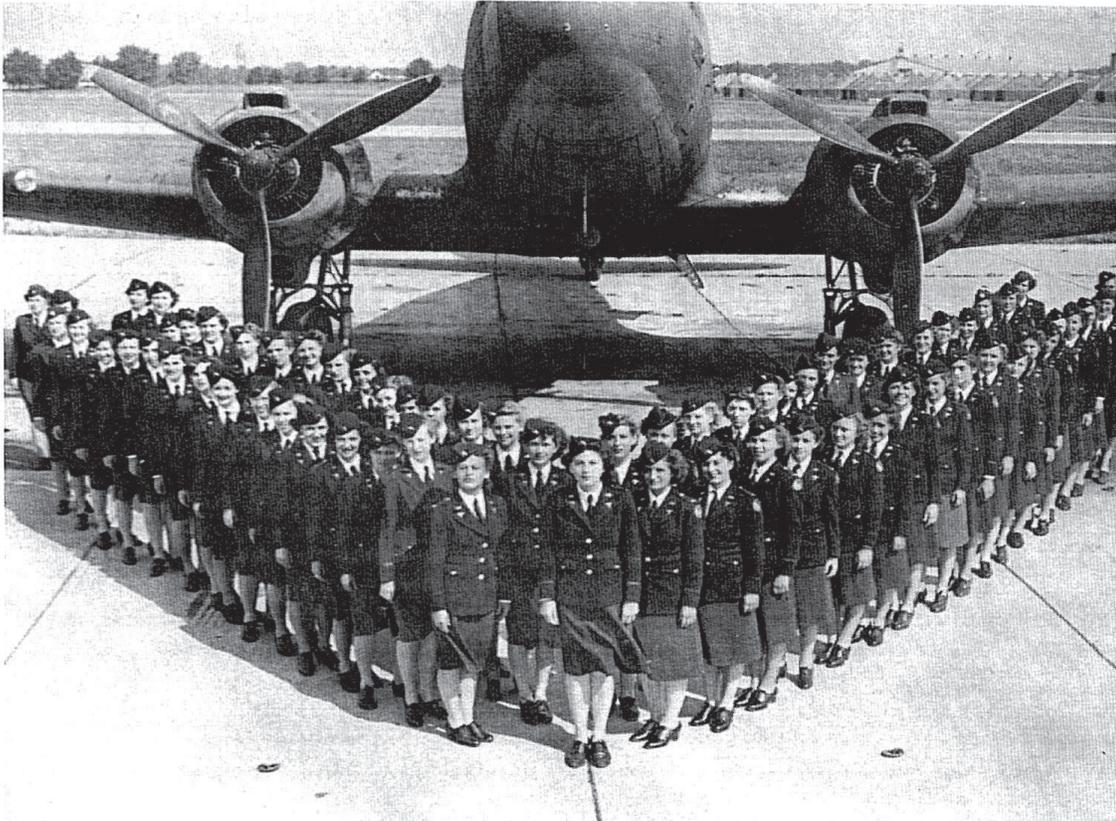


Four riotous weeks of training ended, gold Flight Nurse's wings were waiting for these nurses, the first official air evacuation group graduated from Bowman Field, as they were told to prepare for immediate call to foreign duty. Flying nurses wear flying togs, but her hospital uniform is the traditional white dress.



Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p8



Flying nurses, angels of mercy to the men on the battlefronts, line up in V formation before a giant plane of the type that will take them to the battlefronts to evacuate the wounded, giving the professional medical attention en route to the hospitals behind the lines. The lives of many soldier boys who otherwise might have been lost are saved by brave nurses who risk their lives regularly that others might live and fight.

Flying Nurses

What do you think of your flight nurses' wings? "Naturally, I'm proud," says Lieutenant Cleo M. Swann of Washington, Indiana.

"Hut-two-three-four, hut-two-three-four." Garbed in natty blue flight suits, graduates of the first class for air evacuation prepare to parade before Brigadier General Borum, commanding general, First Troop Carrier Command, who presented diplomas. Soon after they were flying over the front lines, evacuating the wounded from foreign battlefronts.



Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Flight Nurse's Creed, Excerpted from a Speech by Major General David N.W. Grant, November 26, 1943

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Note: The Flight Nurse's Creed first appeared in a speech given by Major General David N. W. Grant, the Air Surgeon of the U.S. Army Air Forces, on November 26, 1943, to the seventh graduating class of flight nurses of the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, Kentucky.

Flight Nurse's Creed

I will summon every resource to prevent the triumph of death over life.

I will stand guard over the medicines and equipment entrusted to my care and ensure their proper use.

I will be untiring in the performances of my duties and I will remember that, upon my disposition and spirit, will in large measure depend the morale of my patients.

I will be faithful to my training and to the wisdom handed down to me by those who have gone before me.

I have taken a nurse's oath, reverent in man's mind because of the spirit and work of its creator, Florence Nightingale. She, I remember, was called the "Lady with the Lamp."

It is now my privilege to lift this lamp of hope and faith and courage in my profession to heights not known by her in her time. Together with the help of flight surgeons and surgical technicians, I can set the very skies ablaze with life and promise for the sick, injured, and wounded who are my sacred charges.

...This I will do. I will not falter in war or in peace.