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
Office of War Information
University of North Texas Library (Poster 710-A)
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
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

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 marred the development of our “Astronomical” air force. Today it is saving lives and alleviating suffering on all of our furiously fighting fronts.

Organized at Bowman Field, Louisville, Kentucky, on October 6, 1942, the first Air Evacuation training program was a realisation of a dream which medical officers of the Army Air Forces had for many years to train flight surgeons, and nurses to become expertly trained in the latest methods of emergency care, 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 services of evacuation by air.

First known as the 389th Air Evacuation Group, and later redesignated the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation on June 23, 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.

Institutional 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, 1945. He joined the Army in 1918 and after training

Lieutenant Ethel 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.
Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p4

AT BOWMAN FIELD

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

Present Commanding Officer of the School is Colonel John B. McGraw, 32, former Executive Officer, Surgeon's Office, Second Air Force Headquarters, Colorado Springs, Colorado, who relieved Colonel Stevenson on January 1, 1946. On that date, Colonel Stevenson was transferred to Headquarters, First Troop Carrier Command, Stout Field, Indianapolis, Indiana, where he assumed the duties of 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 planes to care for the sick and wounded. The flight nurse is a registered nurse, who has completed a special training program at Bowman Field which equips her to do the work. In 1942, the first class of Flight Nurses graduated from the School in a little less than a year. Since then, approximately 150 Flight Nurses have been trained. A class of these nurses is now graduated from the School of Air Evacuation every eight weeks.

Today the Flight Evacuation Nurse receives instructions in more than a dozen different courses which range from aircraft identification to oxygen administration. Upon successful completion of the courses, the Flight Nurse is recommended to the Surgeon who assigned her to 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 surgeon, flight nurses, and enlisted men of the Medical Department—with their special responsibilities for administering emergency medical treatment, classifying patients, leading patients on the plane, and treatment 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 knowledge of the curricula of the three classes of personnel is possessed by all three groups.

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. The training of Flight Nurses is divided into subjects that are necessary to her work under flying conditions. Her initial training is given at Bowman Field by the School of Maternity at Randolph Field. After that she proceeds to the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Texas, where she is taught the methods of handling a patient in flight. Her education in hematology and surgery, long a specialty of the field nurse, is not neglected. A student who has attended the School of Air Evacuation will not be content with the knowledge that must be gained in some elementary course. She is taught the value of such knowledge as how to handle the patient who has been injured in an airplane and how to handle the patient who has been injured in an airplane and how to handle the patient who has been injured in an airplane. The course in air evacuation is thorough.

The first class of Flight Nurses graduated from the School of Air Evacuation was in 1943. The present class of Flight Nurses is in training at the School of Air Evacuation and will graduate in June 1946.

Lieutenant Ruth M. Garden, of Indianapolis, Indiana, was the first nurse to be killed in a battle of operation. She was wounded on November 11, 1943, in a bombing raid over Italy. She was killed on November 13, 1943, while attempting to care for wounded American soldiers.

First Lieutenant Porter A. Hall was the first flight nurse to be killed in the School of Air Evacuation. He is in action in the South Pacific area.

Lieutenant Hall graduated from Radnor High School in 1934.

THE COLOR GUARD

The Flight Nurse is the Angel of Mercy.
Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

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

Explaining the compass during bivouac of the fourth graduating class (upper left) are, left to right, Lieutenant Colonel Stevenson, Second Lieutenant Mary E. Svehla, Capt. Elizabeth Biskley and Sergeant E. Roberts. During bivouacs one may expect to crawl through the most inaccessible places (upper right). There are no beauty parlor on bivouacs. 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 water 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).
Station One Resource Packet: Recruitment & Training cont.

Activity: Under their Wing: Impact of Flight Nurses in the Pacific | Handouts

Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p6
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 many ways than one (upper right), while others, in flying tugs, scan the horizon with maps in hand (lower left). A nurse calls 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.

Four grueling 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 tugs, but her hospital uniform is the traditional white dress.
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.

"Naturally, I'm proud," says Lieutenant Cleo M. Swift of Washington, Indiana.

"Hat-two-three-four, hat-two-three-four." Gowned in natty blue flight suits, graduates of the first class for air evacuation nurses to parade before Brigadier General Burum, commanding general, First Troop Carrier Command, who presented diplomas.

305th Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation, Bowman Army Air Base, p8.
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.