

Today's date is September 18, 2014. My name is Fran Prokop and I am speaking with Helene Edgett (nee Kwiatek) who served in the Air Force during the Viet Nam Conflict. Helene learned of the Veterans' History Project through me and she has kindly consented to participate in the National Archives Veterans' History Project. This interview is being conducted in her home in the Carillon Community, Plainfield, Illinois. Here is her story:

**When and where were you born?**

Chicago, Illinois – October 8, 1938.

**What were your parents' occupations?**

My mother was a homemaker; my father was an electrician.

**How many sisters and brothers did you have?**

Two brothers.

**Were either of them in the military?**

No.

**What did you do before entering the service?**

I went to school to become a nurse and I worked for a year before I entered the Air Force.

**Did you graduate from nursing school?**

Yes.

**Were you an LPN or a Registered Nurse?**

Registered Nurse – and I joined the Air Force Nurse Corps.

**We'll get to that. How did you enter the service?**

Enlisted.

**When was that – do you remember?**

June of 1960.

**Why did you choose that specific branch of service – the Air Force?**

Because I wanted to become a flight nurse.

**How did you actually – did you go to –you lived in Chicago so did you go to one of the recruiting –**

I was living in Lyons, Illinois, but I had to go to Chicago to the recruiter.

**You mentioned to me before the interview about the buddy system – do you want to mention that again.**

Right. My classmate, Janet, and I joined the Air Force under the Buddy System, which assured us the first assignment together. After that – who knows –

**I'm not familiar with how the women were – did you have training camp or boot camp just like the men?**

No. We had what was called an indoctrination because we were Officers of the Medical Corps - so Nurse Corps – Medical Corps – with the doctors and nurses.

**So you were considered an officer.**

Oh, yes. I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant when I entered.

**Oh, you were a Second Lieutenant already.**

Correct. Again in the Nurse Corps.

**I'm unfamiliar with how the women were dealt with. I only interviewed a couple of other women and none of them were nurses.**

And I believe it was in Montgomery, Alabama where we took our basic – what they called – to get us familiar with – get your uniforms, how to salute –

**I'm going into that. First of all, how did you get there? Your departure for training camp – how did you get there -- Physically – by airplane?**

Airplane.

**Montgomery, Alabama - What was the name of that base?**

Maxwell Air Force Base.

**And what were your duties there or what did they do?**

It was just an indoctrination into the United States Air Force Nurse Corps.

**And that involved what?**

Learning the uniform, saluting and the medical records we would be involved with. I don't believe we even marched then. I don't remember.

**Did you have classroom training of any kind?**

It was all classroom – classroom setting.

**So you didn't actually carry guns or do anything like that –**

No.

**Nothing like the men would do –**

No.

**And how long was that training?**

I believe it was four weeks.

**And what happened after that?**

I was already assigned to Chanute Air Force Base.

**Did you have any other specialized training?**

In the military?

**Yes, in the military.**

Yes. They sent me to flight school to be a Flight Nurse.

**And where was that at?**

That was in Texas and it was at Briggs Air Force Base, in San Antonio, Texas.

**And how long were you there?**

I think six weeks if I'm not mistaken.

**And what were your duties there?**

It was all classroom – classroom and then aboard a mock aircraft for evacuees –such as, things you learn how to load the airplane with the litters, what to do in case of emergency.

**Beyond basic Red Cross training –**

Just strictly what to do -- how to load the aircraft –

**For injuries –**

Yeah, these were military casualties – that were being sent to various places such as, you know, they try to get the patient closest to his home town so family could visit, etc. But also if they need specialty care they'd go to a hospital that – Chanute was mainly really orthopedic.

**Oh, I didn't know that.**

It was a large hospital and it was mainly orthopedic. However, they had all other branches of –

**Military –**

No, no, strictly Air Force – other branches of medicine, such as pediatrics, OB/Gyne, Medical/Surgical, outpatient clinics. Chanute was an air training base – ATC – Air Force Training Command – where they would – the young boys would come after they finished their basic – came for specific training.

**Did you say how long you were there in San Antonio?**

I think it was six weeks – I think. I'm pretty sure.

**Then after your six weeks were over?**

I went back to Chanute.

**And what was your job in Chanute? Did you do what you were trained there to do – be the Flight Nurse?**

No. You got your wings and then you waited until they had an opening for you. You'd apply, and then because Jan and I, -- Jan went also but she went after me, my buddy, to Flight School. When the Cuban Crisis – when Kennedy did the Bay of Pigs, she and I were called to be on stand-by, which meant that we couldn't leave the base. WE could go from – when we left our BOQ we would have to call the Command Center and say we were on our way to the hospital. When we got to the hospital, the unit we were on, we had to call Command and say we were there. We had to have a bag packed –

**Be on the ready –**

On the ready because if we were called because of what was happening with the Cuban Crisis in Florida, a car would pick us up, we would have to leave the unit; not wait for a replacement because the Corpsmen could take over, and they would drive us to our BOQ, get our bag and take us to the aircraft. I was fitted with field gear as well as I was given a Geneva Convention Card – because we're medics.

**What does BOQ stand for?**

Bachelor Officers Quarters.

**No guns – you never had any training with guns.**

No. Medics don't carry guns.

**All in all up to this point, how did you adapt to military life?**

Loved it.

**The physical regimen, the barracks, everything else –**

**Food, social life.**

Well, the BOQ was a two-bedroom little apartment; it had a galley kitchen, one bath; two separate bedrooms and a living room which was furnished. We had someone clean every week.

**Wow – so you had no barracks; you had an apartment.**

No barracks; little apartments. We cooked our own food or we could go over to the hospital to eat. They had three meals there but you had to pay for it because as an officer you get subsistence which was – I want to say – for some reason I got \$47.88 – I don't know. That wasn't taxable; that was supposed to help you with –

**Was that per week or per month?**

Per month – because I think lunch was like sixty cents and the same thing was for dinner.

**Well, we're talking the sixties, right.**

You're talking 1960. Correct. I went back there – back to Chanute. When I was at Chanute I worked on – combination Pediatrics and another unit connected to it – pediatrics and Womens' Ward. And then I was -- the Ob/Gyne Chief requested that I would come and work in the Ob/Gyne Clinic, which I did, which was wonderful because I had every weekend off and worked straight days – Monday through Friday.

I did that and then a Captain came in and she wanted the Out-patient Clinic and she got it - I was a First Lieutenant at that time. I got promoted after six months to first Lieutenant. And I was told that if a Captain or a senior officer would want it, I would have to relinquish, which I did. I was put back on the Women's Ward – yeah, I always said I joined the Air Force to take care of the troops and instead I'm taking care of their dependents – which was fine.

**Yeah.**

And then this hospital decided they were going to take the women and scatter them throughout – except for Ob/Gyne – O-b is obstetrics – O-b would say – they had three bays that were the men and then they had private rooms besides. So they put the

women – if you had a medical condition you went on the Medical Unit. If you had a surgical condition, you went on Surgical; if it was Orthopedic, you went on Orthopedic, which was fine. And oh, the nurses that were working on just nothing but men – Colonel Bucco – the Chief Nurse – Colonel Bucco was wonderful as our Director of Nurses – she said they were bitching about it. She said, you know what? I am so sorry I didn't have every one of you work on the womens' ward because then you would appreciate the move. Because the max you had was maybe 2-3 women on each of us– it was not as if they had 30 people like we did – okay.

**Right, exactly.**

So of course to us who were working with females – yeay!! And at that time I got what I wanted – Orthopedics, which I enjoyed. And during this time – let's see – I was still working Ob/Gyne – I met my husband –

**Okay – You just met your husband –**

Met my husband at Chanute Air Force Base.

**And the years you were at Chanute were from 1960 to 1963.**

Correct.

**And what were your husband's duties?**

He was a fighter pilot going through Maintenance School – a nine-month maintenance school – and that's how I met him at someone's promotion party – a mutual friend's promotion party.

**Was he a Chicagoan?**

Believe it or not he was from the south side – way south – 99<sup>th</sup> & Peoria.

**You're kidding!**

Yeah, join the Air Force and what do I do – meet someone from my own home town.

**Right, see the world – And you're in your same state.**

When we went on leave, both our parents were in the Chicago area which made it very nice. When he got orders for the Philippines, I went to the Chief Nurse and I said I want to go to the Philippines. And she knew why – and she said well let me call my friend in Air Training Command. So when she did, they said oh, she wants to be a flight nurse. She wants duty as a flight nurse. And she said no, she wants to go to the Philippines. So they said okay, the Chief Nurse – Colonel Bucco knew somebody in ATC – she said okay I'm going to approve it – have her put her request in. So I went to Personnel – and said I want to go to the Philippines. Well, you have to give us three choices. No problem.. Clark Air Force Base, Clark Field and the Philippines – the guy looked at me – I said that's it. And I did get it.

**Oh, where were you – which one?**

Well, they're all the same.

**Oh, they're all the same thing – the field and the base are the same.**

Clark Air Base. And in the Philippine, let's ee, it's north of Manila, about 75 miles north of Manila. It's no longer – because the volcano nearby erupted –

**Yeah, right. That was afterwards though –**

Yes, that was way after, yeah. And now I understand it's a beautiful resort because it was a big beautiful base. WE had to live off base because we got married here at Chanute Air Force Base --

**When were you married?**

October of 1962.

**And you were married at the Air Force Base.**

Correct.

**Was it like a military wedding?**



Sort of, but I didn't get married in my uniform; he did. But our parents could be there. That was the big thing. And – but I couldn't – he left at the end of October for the Philippine and I couldn't join him until the first week of March –

**Oh, wow, March of the next year --six months later.**

No, four months later – let's see, that would be February – February or March – I can't remember – it was four months without him. But for 30 days I still had to use my maiden name because it took 30 days to get a name change.

**Ha, ha, I guess we remember those days.**

I was Lieutenant Kwiatek for four more months and then I became Lieutenant Edgett.

**What is your husband's first name – you keep talking about him.**

Conrad Edgett –Junior, because our son is the Third – middle initial B – Conrad B. Edgett. He retired as a Major.

**What was the highest rank you achieved?**

First Lieutenant. At that time you had to be 5-6 years in the military before you become a captain.

**How did you get to the Philippines – details of how you got there? Not on ship – by air?**

By Air; it was called World Airways – military contract.

**Like a MATS plane?**

Yeah, sort of – yeah – but not -- it was World Airways; it was an airline but they had a contract with the military. I flew out of Travis AFB to Hawaii and then from Hawaii, we were supposed to stop at Guam but we didn't; we stopped at Wake Island and then we flew into the Philippines –

**Manila?**

Clark; we flew into Clark, and that was like 34-36 hours.

**Wow –**

And I remember – the first leg of the trip I sat next to this young sailor that was just a chatterbox – that was nine hours.

**Oh my Gosh**

So I thought, okay – I got off and we had a 3-4 hour layover – and I thought well, everything's closed; all the vendors were closed except where you could eat so I thought I'd get a cup of coffee. There were some air force men – I think one officer and a couple of the enlisted – you had to fly in uniform. They waved me over. I sat down and I told them about this chatterbox. I said gosh, I hope I don't have to sit next to him. It was a Major, he said Look, I'm on my way to Viet Nam. You sit next to me; if you don't want to talk you tell me and if I don't want to talk I'll tell you. I said okay. He was a wonderful passenger next to me and every time they would serve us fruit cocktail – you know, after awhile, you know, is this breakfast or what – because you lose a day going over the International Date Line. Well, I said to him, if that stewardess brings me another fruit cocktail I'm gonna throw it at her.

**Ha, ha**

He just smiled; she came, there was no fruit cocktail. I said, where's the fruit cocktail. She said Oh, I'm so sorry – we ran out. And he said to me, She's lucky!

**Ha, ha**

But he was so nice – he said I'll make sure you get off real quick Helene – because he knew I was meeting my husband.

**Right, right.**

But it was a long flight because it was a turboprop – is what it was.

**Right, exactly, that was before jets.**

Coming back it took us 18 hours by jet – coming back from the Philippines it only took us 18 hours.

**What did you do in the Philippines – the same thing you did in Chanute?**

Yeah, they put me on – the Chief Nurse wasn't there, her assistant was –

**You were at the base hospital?**

Yes, yes and it was the old ramp type hospital which was from WWII. And we had to live off base because there was a waiting list to get on base, so we were like five miles from the main gate. And the main gate was five miles to the hospital – it was a big, big base. So this assistance Chief Nurse – what a bugger she was – because I said I don't want to work anywhere with women. I want to work Orthopedics, okay. So she put me on the Labor/Delivery and Postpartum. She said I have to put you there; you can decide in 90 days – and I thought – ooh – So of course I did, which was fine. Then when -- the Chief Nurse was gone to Japan for a conference and when she came back she introduced herself to me and I told her, I said I didn't want this; I want orthopedics. She said, Helene, stay for 90 days because then I can officially move you, which she did. And then she did give me orthopedics.

**So what did you do in orthopedics; what were your duties? Worked with injured men --**

Injured men –

**So you actually did what you came to do –**

Nursing, right – injured men as well as hepatitis; young men have hepatitis too.

**And you did that the whole time you were there?**

Yeah, until – I wanted to get pregnant because there was a ruling that if you were pregnant. At that time a female could not have a dependent under 18 – now they can.

**Yes.**

So if you got pregnant you could stay and then you would meet a Board and they would have to force you out and if they did they have to give you a month's base pay for every year you were in. So we're talking, you know, over \$2,000. Of course I couldn't get pregnant at that time – of course. So my husband said, Helene, I want you to get out of

the military. He said enjoy being a dependent wife here. And I said okay. So I went and I got out on – I fulfilled my time there and I requested discharge, which I did.

**When were you discharged?**

In, I believe it was March of '64, I think.

**So it was like you were almost four years in the service.**

Yeah, right. Over four years. And so I put in and I was working nights on Orthopedics and a Twix came in saying they could cut my orders – for discharge. And the ramp tramp – which is the supervising RN – they call them ramp tramps because there's ramps going to each little hut, like – ward – like they were ramps covered ramps for the rain, but you could go from one unit to another, etc. So I was telling her about it. I said I don't like the Captain I'm working for; because I'm married she gives me a hard time – because she was jilted at one time. So she's taking it out on the married girl. I would come to duty like at 7 o'clock in the morning and she would say okay you have to leave and come back – working nights or something. They were second Lieutenants that she could do that to; she did it to me. So I told this to the Captain. So she said why do you think I work nights? I can't put up with some of that crap. So I said okay. She said go to Personnel, take the Twix, she gave it to me – she said go to Personnel and tell them that you want this cut as soon as possible. I said will they do it. She said, of course. So I went to Personnel, I spoke with an NCO – non-commissioned Officer, and I said Sergeant, I really would like to get out if you cut the orders for today. Now I'm there at 7:30 in the morning. And he said Lieutenant, I'd be happy to. The nurses were so good to my wife when she had surgery – I'll have them cut for you today; sit and wait. So he did.

**How nice.**

So I went to the Chief Nurse and I gave her my orders and I said to her, you'll have to tell Captain so and so that I won't be on duty tonight.

**Oh, wow, I didn't know they would do it that quickly.**

Oh, sure.

**But they wouldn't do it for men like that.**

Why not?

**That same day like that?**

Well, you cut the orders. The orders are effective the day – whatever you want. So then I had to go turn in things, you know, get a dependent's ID now. I had the Geneva Convention Card. Why I didn't save it, I don't know. I thought I had to turn it in. So I turned it in to this young airman and he doesn't know what to do with it – it's called the Geneva Convention Card. So he had to go get the officer and the officer said just take it. I should have kept it.

**Yeah.**

Because when Colonel Bucco gave me the Geneva Convention Card – I said whoa, wait a minute. I joined the Air Force. I evacuate them. I'm not MASH; I'm not Army; I'm not on the front lines. And she said Helene, pack a party dress because you never know when you're gonna have a party.

**Ha, ha**

Okay, so I took it from her.

**Well, now you're out of the Air Force and how long did you remain in the Philippines once you were out?**

Until late '65.

**So for a couple of years. What did you do?**

Yeah. The – but I got involved with Red Cross. I took a lot of courses through Red Cross to become an Instructor – to be an Aide – I also organized their volunteer nurses – RNs – to work to help the volunteer. So I did my 13 years with Red Cross, so when I left one base and went to another base, the Red Cross would call me up and say – I told them I'll call you when I'm ready to work. It's all volunteer.

**Yes, well the Red Cross is volunteer work. How about friendships formed and the camaraderie of service – the lady you didn't like.**

Well, we had friends. We lived on bases – all the bases we were at we lived on base and you make friends. You're all basically very close in age because – and the children were basically close to the same age.

**So In 1964 when you were discharged in March and the following two years, you were at that same base.**

Right and then we got transferred to -- wait a minute – we got transferred to Reese Air Force Base – so that – where was I then for Flight School? That wasn't Reese –

**You said Reese at first – in San Antonio**

Yeah

**Well, you can think about it –**

Yeah, have to look it up. Yeah, we were at Lackland – wait, I wasn't at Lackland though – that was another base – oh, starts with a B I think – because the Army Burn Unit was there; it was another base – there were three bases together – starts with a B. So we went to Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas.

**You were transferred there after the Philippines.**

Yeah, except he had to go to maintenance school – six weeks school he had to go to – back to Chanute; so we lived off base, rented a little apartment – because I had a baby at that time.

**When did you finally get pregnant?**

After I got out – that following September I got pregnant.

**Really – you were out in March so in September –**

That's when I got pregnant and delivered in June of 65. And now there was a new hospital, they were building a new hospital – beautiful, it was air conditioned, etc. – the

only places in the ramp hospitals was Ob and -- Labor & Delivery and Surgery were the only two that were air conditioned.

**While you were away, especially in the Philippines, how were your communications from home? How did you stay in touch with family and friends.**

Letters.

**Just letters – did you ever have telephone calls?**

No, you didn't have – no; you couldn't have –

**Strictly letters and packages. How long did mail take to get to you and back.**

All mail was air mail automatically. The family would write with an APO address and then from there it was air mailed very quickly.

**Within a week?**

Yeah, yeah. Off base you didn't have a phone. On base you had a phone; every base housing had a phone – but it's very difficult to talk with somebody because it's almost like waves you can hear –

**I remember that – I remember talking overseas and you're right –**

You can hear the waves.

**Right – the cable was on the bottom of the ocean.**

I was screaming into the phone telling my mother I was pregnant. Then one of the girls came out and said, I hear you're pregnant, ha, ha – yeah, I was on the phone. And my mother wrote and said, I think I heard you - please write and tell us – confirm this.

**Ha, ha**

And that was the first grandchild – so – when people would say to her what does the baby look like? She'd say top half like mother, bottom half like father.

**Ha, ha. What were your recreational or off-duty pursuits – when you were still in the service?**

While I was in the service?

**Yes.**

Well, it depended on the hours of duty because sometimes you worked days, sometimes you worked nights –

**I mean there was no organized sports, teams or bowling or something like that?**

Well, you could –

**But there was no officially organized sports with teams or competition –**

No, no.

**The men have – you know they play against each other.**

No, we'd go to the movies, go to the club, dance.

**But nothing organized – just on your own.**

We'd meet, go out to eat.

**Okay, actually you were away from home for a long time but even when you came back from the Philippines – end of '65 – you were at Lubbock, Texas.**

Yeah.

**But during that time you were out of the service but your husband was still in – so it's not like –**

I would go home by train – not from Lubbock, Texas. I would call, I would write; my inlaws came to visit; my mother came to visit –

**So, this doesn't apply to you – readjustment to civilian life because you were like paramilitary – you were officially out but you were still part of the military.**



I love it. Wherever he hung his hat is where I made home, okay. There were a lot of girls that were married to military, that were not previous military themselves that were homesick all the time and that wasn't fair to the man, okay.

**Right.**

And I always felt, hey, I got married. I don't need my mother by me all the time, you know. I'm sure she would have loved to have me all the time but she was understanding; so was my father. Of course my father didn't think anything – he'd say to my mother, Mary, why does she have to go in the Air Force. – Because that's what she wants to do; she's a nurse and let her be, okay.

**Have you had any contact with any fellow veterans over the years; people that you met while you were in the service?**

No, other than Janet; and Bob -- a POW (Hanoi) 7+ years. He was a friend of both my husband and me.

**You still see her?**

No, I don't. I met her at our – couple of our class reunions from nursing – because she was in Wisconsin.

**Did she stay in as long as you did?**

No. She got married and then got out. And she only had a month to wait before she could get discharged and go. I had a roommate that was dating an Army Major that was teaching at U of I at Champaign and they got married and she – he got transferred to Frankfurt, Germany, and she went to the Air Force and they said no, that she'd go to Weisbaden, which would have been too far. So she went over to the Army, because he was Army, and she said can I transfer –

**Really?**

Yeah, and she transferred to Army and they said yes, we will guarantee you the same place where he is.

**How nice.**

Then he said – they said the only thing – she doesn't lose time and rank – I think – I don't remember – something about leave, she would lose her leave or they would pay her for it. but she did; she was able to join him then as Army. They were not going to have any children so it worked out fine for her. But the Army welcomed her.

**Good. Do you have any memberships today in Veterans organizations?**

No.

**You don't belong to ur VFW here?**

No, I wanted to and they were still holding men only; I wanted to so bad to go and say I'm a veteran and you have to take me. No, I haven't – I thought about it and I don't know what I want to do.

**How did your military experience affect your life – really affect ed yours –**

I got married, I had children, I traveled; my husband got an assignment on what was called a – I lost the word – exchange – where he went to the RAF and we were one of two American couples stationed at Coltishal in Norridge – Norfolk, England. Because he was the senior officer of the two – I got invited to everything – teas and coffees –

**How long was he in the service – total ?**

He had 3 or 4 years with the Coast Guard and then he also went through pilot training – he was a cadet pilot and he was Distinguished Graduate and he got fighters. So all that time counted so about some 24 years.

**And you traveled – wherever he was at you stayed with him.**

Right, right.

**Where did he go besides England?**

After England we came back to Scott Air Force Base.

**Here in Illinois, right?**

Yeah, And then he decided to retire because the kids were – Conrad was 11 and my daughter was four years younger. So my husband said it's time for him to get out and that way the children could have – make friends, etc.

**Right, school and stuff –**

More stability yeah. There were people with kids in high school where the father got transferred and the mother stayed so the kid could finish with his friends in high school and we didn't want that; so he got out.

**How about life lessons you learned from military service.**

I don't know about life lessons –

**Go with the flow – right.**

Yeah, I mean I enjoyed the whole experience. What I really liked about nursing in the military was – I didn't have to requisition everything --- in other words, anything in a civilian hospital, if I give you an aspirin, I've got to requisition it because you've got to pay. The only thing I had to requisition is if I didn't have a stock supply of the medicine, or requisition an x-ray, whatever, physical therapy. I could go to a cabinet, open it up and from A to Z – bottles with all kinds of medicine. I had more time to do bedside nursing than I – and teaching – etc. I had more patient contact that way. I didn't waste time with paper work. I didn't have to chart every shift. There was a nice way of charting – just check off the medicines you gave out that day, if there was anything – once a week you had to make a notation. You've got to remember that the military man that's put in the hospital cannot be discharged unless he is married and goes home to convalesce. If you're not married you've got to stay in the hospital until you're physically fit to go back to duty. And then they utilize those people who are convalescing; they might use them for 2-3 hours a day clerical work in some clinic, etc. They all wore blue pajamas that were heavy – but it was like a uniform. If they were in a body cast or something, they put them on a gurney – litter with two canes – they could roll on their stomach with the gurney – everybody had to go downstairs to the chow hall – even the ones on the gurney if they were able to go – it was good. Like I said, I didn't have to do all that charting that you had to do in civilian – request.

**How long were you a nurse before you went into the military?**

Well, I worked for one year after I graduated from nurse's training. I passed my Boards and I worked at LaGrange Hospital – it was just a 100-bed hospital.

**Right, a little hospital. So you know about charting –**

Right, and like I said after I was in the military six months later I made First Lieutenant because of the fact that I had prior experience nursing.

**Is there anything else that you wish to add to the story.**

No, unless you have something –

**Not really – you're going to fill out your portion of the field kit and return it to me and I will complete it and give you a rough draft of the transcript for your correction and for yourself; once it is corrected I will send the final transcript and this tape to Washington.**

I always felt that the Army – they weren't so much bedside; the Navy – the Army gave orders and the Navy nurses just supervised. The corpsmen from the Navy are excellent because I had an ex Navy corpsman – the reason he transferred to the Air Force was that he was married and had children – because they go out nine months and come back – a lot of separation. Their training is excellent; the corpsmen can – I had a seriously ill patient – at the time there was no recovery room, no intensive care unit – you called them seriously ill and I would never leave my unit if I had a seriously ill. Air Force Corpsmen, they were good, but hey, they weren't as good as the Navy. So then I said I could go down to the chow hall because he was there; otherwise I would say here; pick me up something, etc. I just felt I had more time with the patients than I did – you have time with patients in civilian but not in military. The Navy uniforms were – the nurse's uniforms – they never rolled up their sleeves, so to speak.

I remember one time – an AirEvac plane had to make a landing at Chanute and they brought into the hospital overnight for a couple of days – and I remember the women saying – in the Army they had to make their own beds, and when the women got up and started making – I said wait, wait, wait – I loved it. Where could I work in civilian life and

get 30 days paid vacation a year. Where could I work in civilian life and get sick time – and take care of me until I was well. The only thing I would have to do in the hospital is pay – if you are an officer you have to pay for your food per day – a dollar ten cents or something like that.

**If you have anything you want to add to this we can do so at a later date. I just want to thank you, Helene, for this interview and thank you for your service to our country.**

The pleasure was all mine – really.

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