Interview of retired Colonel Edythe Jean Hathaway on her long career	
2	in the Army Nurse Corps
3	
4Ruth Stewart:	This interview today is of Edythe Jean Hathaway on – in San
5	Antonio, Texas, for the WOSL on February 28th, 2007.
6	Interviewers are Ruth Stewart and Trish Martin. Jean, start out by
7	telling a little bit about your early life – where you were born, how
8	you lived and your years there.
9	
10Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Okay. I was born, uh, April 18th, 1923 in Joplin, Missouri to
11	Gertie Bird Fetty, F-E-T-T-Y and Victor Gilmore Fetty. My
12	mother died in 1930; my father in 1962. I went to school in Joplin.
13	We lived real close to the grade school, about two blocks, so we
14	could run back and forth for lunch. Had a great time. Graduated
15	from high school in Joplin in 1941. I wanted to be a detective
16	because my father was one, but he would have nothing to do with
17	that. So, I went into nurses' training, since I'd been taking care of
18	sick animals and sick friends. St. John's Mercy Hospital. I
19	graduated there in 1944.
20	
21Ruth Stewart:	[1:29] Is that in Joplin?
22	
23Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Joplin, Missouri. It was a mercy hospital. We used to think that
24	was a misnomer at times.
25	
26Ruth Stewart:	[chuckle]
27	
28Edythe Jean Hathaway:	We joined I joined the army as soon as I got my state board
29	results; and was commissioned a 2 nd lieutenant on 7 February 1945.
30	Went to basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado, doing push-ups in
31	the snow.
32	
33Ruth Stewart:	[2:00] What made you chose the army as a career?
34	
35Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Well, my father had been a gunner in WWI and we were a patriotic
36	family. And I thought it was what I should do. I tried to join the
37	cadet corps, but there were only two of us in the class that wanted
38	to join. So, they wouldn't do that for two. So, as soon as I got
39	state board, I talked a couple of friends into going down. One
40	thought she wouldn't be admitted to the army because she didn't
41	see very well. But they told her they were using the braille system.
42	[chuckle] So, she went in with me.
43	

Page 1 of 13

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	My first assignment was at O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield. Had a very interesting assignment to the plastic surgery ward. It was an officer's ward. They had a little trouble getting them to go to bed at 10:00. They'd play bridge in the bathroom. And if they went to the club, I'd set out APC's and vitamins for them to take before they'd go to bed, so they wouldn't have a headache the next morning. I volunteered, uh, to go overseas; and I left there in August. And
10 11 12	uh, I went over as a casual with several doctors. I was the only nurse.
13Ruth Stewart: 14	[3:39] What does that mean that you went as a casual?
15Edythe Jean Hathaway: 16 17 18 19 20	Uh, no other group of nurses went with me. I just went as a single. It was an interesting assignment though at Fort, uh, Sill. We had, uh, we were making Most of them were pilots who had been severely burned and we were making plastic eyes and uh, replacing ears and uh These fellas were really great troopers.
21Trish Martin: 22	[4:20] Where was that?
23Edythe Jean Hathaway: 24 25	O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield. I think they later turned it over to a church group.
26Ruth Stewart: 27	[4:31] That's Springfield, Missouri?
28Edythe Jean Hathaway: 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	Uh-huh. Springfield, Missouri. From O'Reilly we went to Camp Beale, California to prepare for overseas duty. We boarded the hospital ship Marigold, headed for the Philippines, with about 400 nurses – or women. We had some Red Cross. We were housed in a monastery when we got to Manila. They had removed all the plumbing the day bef-, before we got there, so We were there V-J Day, so we went into town to celebrate; and uh, mainly to find a job.
37Ruth Stewart: 38 39	Let's go back to this business of the housing. You said that they removed all the plumbing. [5:22] What was that about?
40Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Yeah, it was a monastery.
42Ruth Stewart: 43	[5:24] It was what?

Page 2 of 13

1Edythe Jean Hathaway: 2 3	A monastery – it's called Novaliches Monastery in the Philippines [Lausanne 5:30]. And the Japanese had taken out all the plumbing.
4Ruth Stewart:	Ahh.
6Edythe Jean Hathaway: 7 8 9	They had one holer in the back with only the backrest to it. So, we were very anxious to get into town to go to a nice facility. When we got into town, [chuckle] you walk in and men and women go in the same door. And you're almost – little privacy, but we were happy to get into town.
11 12Ruth Stewart:	[6:10] So what did you do then hasides enjoy the facility there
12Ruth Stewart. 13	[6:10] So, what did you do then besides enjoy the facility there when you went into town?
15Edythe Jean Hathaway: 16 17 18 19 20	Well, when we went back, we had to go in a dump truck or we rode in in a truck. On the way back, we, uh, picked up a Japanese who had a hand grenade with him in the grotto, but he was too weak to throw it, so the men turned him over to the military. And uh, from the Novaliches, we went up to Yokohama Harbor; got back on the Marigold; and we had to stay out in the harbor until we could get a Japanese pilot to guide us through the mine fields.
22	We sake a heart to sake a Welshama Heart and a same and
23 24	We sat up hospital in, uh, at Yokohama Harbor to process our, our
25	POWS; and uh, get them ready to go back to the States. Several of us were assigned to teams to go out to the mountains to these
26 27 28	prison camps and, uh, assist the doctors and corpsmen in getting the patients ready. I went to a place called [RokuRoku 7:38]. It was up in the mountains, which was a officer's camp with Marie
29	[Huddock 7:47]. She was with the old 42 nd General. And they had
30	come up from, uh, Australia. All of the 42 nd nurses were kind of
31	atovaquone-tanned and kind of thin. So here I was, kind of plump
32	and pink from the States.
33 34Ruth Stewart: 35	Atovaquone
36Edythe Jean Hathaway: 37	Atovaquone-tanned, yeah.
38Ruth Stewart:	[8:11] From the medication for malaria?
40Edythe Jean Hathaway: 41 42 43	Yeah, from the medication, yeah. Yeah, we were all on atovaquone. I joined Colonel French, uh, his team to process several of the prisoners in the Osaka area. We were billeted in the new Osaka Hotel. We stayed all night at this [RokuRoku 8:39]
44	camp, so Colonel French stayed outside our door to guard us. And

Page 3 of 13

1 2	uh, we were billeted in this place that had a mosquito net that dropped from the ceiling and then they had tatami mats that we
3 4	slept on. Had a few fleas, but otherwise we had a pretty good night.
5 6Ruth Stewart:	[9:01] What was the name of the mats?
7	[5101] What was the name of the matter
8Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Tatami Tatami mats – Japanese mats. Needless to say, these
9	prisoners had been there, most of'm for 3-1/2 years, so they were
10	really glad to see us. Some of them were in pretty fair shape,
11	because the Red Cross had dropped supplies and they'd been
12	eating and were in fair shape. Some of'm were sick from
13	overeating. Then when I went
14	
15Ruth Stewart:	[9:38] Now what was your role? I'm not really clear. You went
16	into the prisoner of war, where our sold
17	
18Edythe Jean Hathaway: 19	our prisoners of war.
20Ruth Stewart:	allied prisoners were housed.
20 Kutii Stewart.	amed prisoners were noused.
22Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Uh-huh.
23	on nun.
24Ruth Stewart:	[9:50] And so then you went in with a team of doctors and
25	nurses
26	
27Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Yeah, we took, you know We did a physical on them and got
28	them ready to ship back to Yokohama to get on board the ship to
29	go home. And uh, most of'm were in pretty good shape. Uh, Fred
30	Garrett was one that had been, uh, had had his leg amputated. He
31	was, uh, on the Bataan Death March. And they had removed his
32	leg with a samurai sword without any anesthetic. But he insisted
33	on marching when they raised the American flag over the camp.
34	He was quite a young man.
35	W (1 1 (O 1 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
36	We went back to Osaka and had, uh I have a clipping there, uh,
37 38	volunteers included about 56 British. These were fellas who
39	stayed behind to process, uh, prisoners to take back home. One Australian; one from New Zealand; and one without a country.
40	Australian, one from New Zealand, and one without a country.
41	And uh, they – army commander General Robert Eichelberger, uh,
42	was planning a great celebration and dinner with music on
43	September the 4 th for men who made their way to Yokohama. But
44	they voluntarily returned to Osaka that night to organize the
	, , ,

1 Page 4 of 13

1	evacuation of the other prisoners. And we traveled by train, truck
2	and walked up the mountain for several – to some of these camps.
3	Most of them were captured on, uh, 9 December 1945.
4	
5	We toured a hospital in Kyoto where many of the Hiroshima
6	victims were being cared for. This was a horrible site. Then we
7	went to the Miyako Hotel. [chuckle] We were told that a couple of
8	the GI's had taken over the hotel to, uh We were supposed to
9	talk'm into going home. [chuckle] They invited us for dinner and
10 11	uh, they had one room full of C-rations, one room full of, uh, pear,
12	apples and Asahi beer and Suntory whiskey. And uh, they were
13	having a very good time, but we talked'm into going back home.
14Ruth Stewart:	[12:37] These were American soldiers that had just sort of hold up
15	and prepared for a long, good life?
16	and prepared for a long, good me.
17Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Yeah, they were walking around with a sword on the side, you
18	know. Just sort of, if they needed anything they'd go downtown
19	and write a check – Mickey Mouse or something – Joe Palooka.
20	Maybe we shouldn't tell that. But they were livin' it up.
21	
22	When we got back to Yokohama, we soon moved up to Tokyo;
23	took over St. Luke's Hospital; and, uh, this was the 42 nd General
24	Hospital. I was assigned as head nurse to a dermatology and
25	[cytology 13:29] ward. Fortunately, I had a very nice southern
26	gentleman as a ward officer, because as a 2 nd lieutenant, I hadn't
27	seen a lot of these problems that these soldiers were having.
28	
29	Quite a few of them had jungle rot cause they couldn't shave; and
30 31	their beards were caked, so we did a lot of debridements and, uh It's when penicillin first some out. And we were giving penicillin
32	It's when penicillin first came out. And we were giving penicillin around the clock. They called me the, "queen of darts" or "tail
33	gunner" in those days. The old members of the 42 nd were getting
34	ready to go home, so Marie, who had been with me, received her
35	bronze star just before she left. And uh, I was to get mine later.
36	Mine went to a nurse with a similar name. She objected, but they
37	made her take it anyway. [chuckle]
38	
39	I had enough points and I had planned to go home anyway. My
40	dad had remarried when I graduated from training. And I thought
41	they were having a few problems and I was ready to go home
42	anyway. So, I went back to work on OB at St. John's Hospital.
43	
44Ruth Stewart:	[15:04] What year was that then?

1 Page 5 of 13

1 2Edythe Jean Hathaway:	That was in 1946 in May. I was separated. I got married that year
3	and, uh, moved to Newton, Kansas. And uh, one of the nuns who
4	was in charge of OB got sick and they asked me to please come up
5	and take care of her – take care of the ward. So, I did. And we
6	traveled back and forth, but my husband and I decided a mutual
7	parting. We were too independent when we got married, I think.
8	
9	So, I volunteered for Korea in, uh, 1950. And uh, my first stop
10	was at Fort Hood. This was 23 rd of October 1950. And I was on
11	general duty there and, uh, left in 25 February for the 3 rd Station
12	Hospital.
13	
14Ruth Stewart:	[16:15] That was still 1950?
15	
16Edythe Jean Hathaway:	In '51.
17	
18Ruth Stewart:	51.
19	
20Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Yeah.
21	
22Ruth Stewart:	[16:20] And you went where then?
23	
24Edythe Jean Hathaway:	3 rd Station Hospital in Korea – Pusan, Korea. I worked on a
25	contagion unit and had a smallpox hut later. I volunteered for the
26	first mash, but I went south to Kotido. This was a prison island – it
27	was the 64 th Field Hospital. Each nurse was assigned one to two
28	wards with 100 beds each with North Korean, South Korean,
29	Chinese, Christians and communists. And some of m were pretty
30	sick. They were anywhere from age 5 to 85. We were trying to
31	find
32	
33Ruth Stewart:	[17:11] What were the conditions that they all had?
34 35EL 4 L H 4	M. C. 0707 C. 1 1700 T.1. 1 A 1
35Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Most of'm, 85% of'm had TB, I think. And we were trying find a
36	treatment for, uh, a disease called paragonimus westermani. This
37	is caused from ingesting raw river snails. And uh, I had an
38	excellent ward officer who was really interesting. And we had
39	Korean doctors and Korean nurses who worked with us.
40	While we were there they had up the prisoners had continued a
41	While we were there, they had, uh – the prisoners had captured a
42	general. So, we had, uh, a day or two where we had to sniff, uh,
43	gas when they went into retrieve him. But uh, everything worked
44	out alright. We were there until the end of hostilities. And then I

1 Page 6 of 13

1	came home to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, which was a great
2	assignment. That was 25 September 52. And they closed that post
3	and I volunteered to go to Fort Irwin, California, which is out in
4	the desert. And uh, if they would let me return if they reopened.
5	So, they did. While I was at Camp Irwin, it was about 114 in the
6	shade; and not much shade. But we had a great time.
7	shade, and not mach shade. But we had a great time.
8	Went back to Fort Huachuca when they opened. And while I was
9	• •
	there, they needed some nurses to go to Tooele Ordnance Depot to
10	replace some civilians. So, I was on TDY there for a couple of
11	months.
12	510.161N
13Ruth Stewart:	[19:16] Now why was it you wanted to go back to Fort
14	
15Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Huachuca?
16	
17Ruth Stewart:	Huachuca.
18	
19Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Oh, I loved Fort Huachuca.
20	
21Ruth Stewart:	[19:24] What was it that
22	
23Edythe Jean Hathaway:	While I was there Of course, I knew a lot of the natives and uh, I
23Edythe Jean Hathaway: 24	While I was there Of course, I knew a lot of the natives and uh, I had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just
•	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just
24 25	
24 25 26	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there.
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart:	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation?
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway:	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's]
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the States, they become American citizens, which isn't quite right.
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the States, they become American citizens, which isn't quite right. Makes for a busy evening though, sometimes.
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39Ruth Stewart:	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the States, they become American citizens, which isn't quite right.
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39Ruth Stewart: 40	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the States, they become American citizens, which isn't quite right. Makes for a busy evening though, sometimes. [20:39] Was that coming from Mexico?
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39Ruth Stewart: 40 41Edythe Jean Hathaway:	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the States, they become American citizens, which isn't quite right. Makes for a busy evening though, sometimes. [20:39] Was that coming from Mexico? Yeah mm-hm, Mexico. And then the nearest hospital was 35 miles
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39Ruth Stewart: 40 41Edythe Jean Hathaway: 42	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the States, they become American citizens, which isn't quite right. Makes for a busy evening though, sometimes. [20:39] Was that coming from Mexico? Yeah mm-hm, Mexico. And then the nearest hospital was 35 miles to Bisbee, so a lot of the people out the east gate used to come
24 25 26 27Ruth Stewart: 28 29Edythe Jean Hathaway: 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39Ruth Stewart: 40 41Edythe Jean Hathaway:	had, uh, rented a cottage up in one of the canyons. And uh, we just had a real, real fun time there. [19:41] What kind of recreation? Horseback riding, hiking in the mountains, the Huachuca Mountains and uh, it was close to Tombstone, Arizona. And at night we would drive to Nogales, Mexico for dinner, [McCavern's 19:59]. Things were much nicer then than they are now. The only thing is [chuckle] when I worked OB, we'd have these people sit outside the gate until they were ready to deliver and then they'll come in and say, "We're an emergency." So, if they're born in the States, they become American citizens, which isn't quite right. Makes for a busy evening though, sometimes. [20:39] Was that coming from Mexico? Yeah mm-hm, Mexico. And then the nearest hospital was 35 miles

1 Page 7 of 13

1	
2	In June of '57 I went to, uh, the 20th Station Hospital and was head
3	nurse of the nursery there. While I was there, I attended the
4	preemie course down at Landstuhl for a couple weeks. Then I
5 6	came back to BAMC and went to several of the courses. I've
7	attended, uh, head nurses' course and, uh, mass casualty course and uh, chief nurses' course. I was assigned to BAMC in '63 as a
8	nurse supervisor. And then, in 64, 5 January, I went back to Zama,
9	Japan and was head nurse in the nursery there.
10	ı
11Ruth Stewart:	[22:16] You went back to where now?
12	
13Edythe Jean Hathaway:	Zama, Japan.
14 15D-4h Starranti	[22,25] A. JJ 41,49
15Ruth Stewart: 16	[22:25] And when was that?
17Edythe Jean Hathaway:	5 June 64. I have all those dates, I think, on that record.
18	5 valie of a flave all mose dates, I allin, on that record.
19Ruth Stewart:	[22:36] But you returned to Japan to do what then? What was the
20	focus of your return?
21	
22Edythe Jean Hathaway:	I was assigned, uh, as the head nurse of the nursery.
23	F00 701 A 11' ' ' I I I I' I C' 141 49
24Ruth Stewart: 25	[22:58] And living in Japan, how did you find that?
26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 2	We really, uh, had a pretty nice setup, because we had quarters
27	close to the hospital and uh, they had a medical lab and they were
28	doing quite a bit of research on, uh, vein replacement and ser-, uh,
29	different things with serum. So, uh, we were right outside the club,
30	so we got all of our meals at the club. And uh, had a nice little, uh,
31	Japanese girl who would come in and clean for you and make up
32	things. She'd cook lunch if you decided to come home for lunch.
33	But uh, it was a nice assignment. We had a lot – did a lot of
34 35	traveling.
36Ruth Stewart:	[24:21] So, most of your experience then, not all of it, but most of
37	it was related to, uh, obstetrical – perinatal I should say. Is that
38	right?
39	
40Edythe Jean Hathaway:	[laughter] I went, I went in as an OB nurse, and uh, my first
41	assignment was, of course, the plastic surgery ward. And then
42	when I was in Korea, I was on the contagion ward. And uh, after I
43	went to the preemie course though, we uh, I was assigned to the
44	nursery again.

1 Page 8 of 13

1	
2	In uh, '67, I went to, uh, the 103 rd Station Hospital in Heidelberg,
3	Germany. And uh, I had to live on the economy because I had a
4	couple of dogs with me. [chuckle] A friend of mine had been to
5	Vietnam and asked me to keep her dogs. So, I had my dog plus
6	hers. So, I had to hire a dog walker. Fortunately, the dog walker
7	was a female butcher. And she used to fix little packages for a
8	picnic when they'd go for a walk up in the mountains. I lived right
9	next to the Odenwald – uh, the woods, the forest. And in the
10	evening, I'd come home and would walk the dogs and stop by a
11	wine stube and have a glass of wine. The dogs would have a little
12	picnic and then we'd come back home again. It was a real nice
13	assignment.
14	ws528
15	Let's see, where are we? [pause]
16	, 4
17Trish Martin:	Back to [Inaudible 26:07]
18	
19Edythe Jean Hathaway:	[chuckle] Yeah, I had requested to go back to Fort Huachuca
20	because I bought some property there when I came back in, uh,
21	1970. In November, I was assigned to Fort Huachuca.
22	
23	Just got my yard all fixed up and uh, was pretty well settled in and
24	they said, uh, "We'd like for you to go to Tripler." And everybody
25	wanted to go to Tripler. I said, "Okay, but I'll have to do
26	something with my pets." So, I had to take my dog home to my
27	step-mother; and I went to Tripler. I was there two years. Had a
28	beautiful home out in the – on the windward side. Had a lot of
29	company. Had a nice young Filipin-, or older Filipino man who
30	did all of the gardening and taking care of the place. I had an acre
31	of banana trees, papayas; and it was like living in paradise. It was
32	really great.
33	
34	I extended for a year, but the higher headquarters was abolished
35	and my replacement [chuckle] came in and I went home to, uh,
36	Reynolds Army Hospital in Fort Sill, uh, where I stayed until I
37	retired – '73 to '76. I retired in June of '76 with much fanfare and
38	lots of parties.
39	F20 121 A 1.1 / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
40Ruth Stewart:	[28:12] And that was your retirement?
41	Mar has
42Edythe Jean Hathaway: 43	Mm-hm.
44 44 Stewart:	It was June of
TTRUIII SICWAII.	it was juile oi

Page 9 of 13

June 30th, 1976. 2Edythe Jean Hathaway: 4Ruth Stewart: So, you've had a lustrous career of going to a lot of interesting places that some people would not consider all that great. And you 6 loved all of them. 8Edythe Jean Hathaway: We had a great time and I met some very interesting people. And uh, we've always had a pretty good time. 10 11Ruth Stewart: [28:43] Do you have contact with some of the people from your 12 past? 14Edythe Jean Hathaway: Oh yes, yep, yep. I still, uh, correspond with some of the people I 15 was with in Germany. 16 17Ruth Stewart: [28:58] Military or civilians? 19Edythe Jean Hathaway: Both. 21Ruth Stewart: [29:08] And when you came back then in 1976, is that when you 22. came to San Antonio? 23 Mm-hm. Yes uh, I had a friend who needed to be close a medical 24Edythe Jean Hathaway: 25 facility. I had bought a lake lot up in, uh, LBJ Lake that I had planned to live – where I had planned to live. But, until we moved 26 into, uh, a place in San Antonio to be close to the medical center. 27 28 She later had a stroke and passed away in '77. And uh, I was 29 pretty well settled into San Antonio, so I sold my lot up at the lake. 30 As you get older, you can't be too far out in the country. [chuckle] 31 32Ruth Stewart: [30:02] So, you've maintained then your life or developed a life in San Antonio... 33 34 35Edythe Jean Hathaway: Oh yes. 37Ruth Stewart: ...that has continued to be an interesting life? 39Edythe Jean Hathaway: Yes, I'm busier now than I ever was. I'm the night driver and I 40 take a lot of friends to different clinics and appointments. 41 42Ruth Stewart: [30:28] What do you do for fun?

Page 10 of 13

43

1Edythe Jean Hathaway: Uh, dig in the dirt. [chuckle] I do a little gardening and uh, I have 2 pets, so I keep pretty busy. 3 4Ruth Stewart: [30:45] And you do belong to WOSL? 6Edythe Jean Hathaway: Oh, you bet I do. [laughter] 8Ruth Stewart: [30:49] Do you belong to any other, uh, veterans associations? 10Edythe Jean Hathaway: Oh yes. I'm a life member of VFW, American Legion, Williamsburg Foundation. 12 13Ruth Stewart: Williamsburg. 15Edythe Jean Hathaway: Uh, there's a few other things, I don't know. Anyway, I keep 16 busy. 17 18Ruth Stewart: [31:18] Are you just a dues-paying member or are you active? I know in WOSL you're active, but do you attend meetings for these 19 20 other organizations? 21 22Edythe Jean Hathaway: Unfortunately, the American Legion meets on the same day that 23 WOSL does – the second Saturday of each month. So, I keep up 24 with'm by newspaper and phone, but that's it. And I'm a member 25 of VFW at large, so I don't go to their meetings. 26 27Ruth Stewart: Okay. [31:52] Would you say generally – you said about your life 28 in the military and your assignments that they've all been great 29 assignments. Um... 30 31Edythe Jean Hathaway: Some people wouldn't think they were so great, but life is what 32 you make it, you know? 33 34Ruth Stewart: And obviously you've contributed a great deal and your experience 35 with the POWS. 36 37Edythe Jean Hathaway: That was a fantastic assignment. That was one that I... 38 39Ruth Stewart: [32:15] Tell us a little more about that. 41Edythe Jean Hathaway: These fellas, you know, who had been prisoners 3-1/2 years were

Page 11 of 13

so polite and so interesting. I had a book called, uh, it was one of Donald Blanding's books called *The End of the Road*. And uh,

they wanted to read something, you know, from the States. So, we

42

43

44

1 2 3 4 5 6	passed it around. And several of'm had written in it. Commander Lineberry was captured on 9 December; and he had written in it. And then, uh, this young man was a little bit, uh, nervous and I – maybe a little psychotic – but anyway, he had written all through the book, you know, about long he'd been there
7Ruth Stewart:	[33:11] You mean they made notations as they read in the book.
9Edythe Jean Hathaway: 10 11	Yeah, they'd written All of'm made a notation in the book. And uh
12Ruth Stewart:	[33:18] Do you still have that book?
14Edythe Jean Hathaway: 15	I loaned it to somebody and I'm trying to find out where it is.
16Ruth Stewart:	That would be a valuable – invaluable book.
18Edythe Jean Hathaway: 19 20 21	Yeah, Doris and saw it and I think [Mim Young 33:27] had it. So, uh, I'm still looking. But it's a nice And every place I went, uh, usually somebody wanted to see it; and has written something in it.
22Ruth Stewart: 23	Mm-hm.
24Edythe Jean Hathaway: 25	So, it's kind of a nice diary.
26Ruth Stewart: 27	Sure.
28Edythe Jean Hathaway: 29 30 31 32	We weren't allowed to keep a diary when we first went in in '45. And we weren't allowed to take too many pictures, you know, until after the war. So, uh, my albums are a little empty for that period of time.
33Ruth Stewart: 34	[34:07] What do you – would you say was your most momentous experience or situation in your time in the military?
36Edythe Jean Hathaway: 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	Uh, the trip to the [RokuRoku 34:20] prison camp with the POWS; and watching them raise the flag on that camp. I had, uh, an older step-brother. My dad didn't remarry until I graduated from training. And uh, my oldest step-brother was in the Seabees; my younger step-brother was in the air force; and my little brother, my own brother, was in the navy. So, we were pretty well represented. And uh, my dad had been a machine gunner in WWI. It was a pretty patriotic family.

Page 12 of 13

1Ruth Stewart: [35:05] Is there anything else you want to record here for us today?

2

3Edythe Jean Hathaway: Can't think of a thing.

4

5Ruth Stewart: This has been a very interesting experience that you've discussed

with us. So, I appreciate it.

7

8Edythe Jean Hathaway: It's sort of dry. [laughter]

9 10/al

Page 13 of 13