

1 **Interview of retired Lieutenant Colonel Madeline M. Ullom on her career in the**
2 **U.S. Army Nurse Corps, including her service during WWII**

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5Margaret Duncan: This is Margaret Duncan of Tucson Unit of the Women's Overseas Service
6 League, and I'm interviewing Madge Ullom, who is a member of this unit.
7 The date is May 15, 1985. [0:17] What branch of the service did you serve
8 in, Madge?

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10Madeline Ullom: I served in the, uh, Army Nurse Corps.

11

12Margaret Duncan: [0:24] How long.

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14Madeline Ullom: I was in, uh, for 28 years.

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16Margaret Duncan: [0:28] Uh, where, where were the most important and most interesting
17 places that you served?

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19Madeline Ullom: Well every place was very interesting and very unique in its own way. I
20 joined the army, and my first station was Walter Reed, uh, General Hospital
21 in Washington, DC, and, uh, I volunteered to go to the Philippine Islands,
22 and I was very fortunate to be stationed at Sternberg General Hospital, the
23 Hospital of the Philippine Department in Manila. Uh, gee, I was stationed
24 at, uh, Foster General in Jackson, Mississippi, uh, Northington in
25 Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and more general in, um, uh, Swannanoa, North
26 Carolina. Each of these hospitals closed a short time after I got there, and,
27 uh, I spent, uh, quite a long time at, uh, Brooke Army Medical Center. I
28 went there first as, um, uh, Director of the, uh, Medical Surgical Procedures
29 area for, uh, the enlisted people. And, uh, then I, um, [tsk] was sent away to
30 school. I guess that comes a little later. And, uh, then, uh, I was at Brooke
31 General Hospital and, uh, also the – yeah, yes, it was previously Brooke
32 General Hospital, although there was coordination with all the different, uh,
33 uh, military aspects on the post. Uh, William Beaumont General Hospital
34 and, uh, in El Paso, Texas, and, uh, Fitzsimons, uh, Army Medical Center
35 in, uh, Denver, Colorado. Oh, and oh yes, then I was stationed overseas.
36 When I first went over, I was at the 2nd General down in Landstuhl,
37 Germany, and then after 3 months, I went up to, uh, the 130th Station
38 Hospital in Heidelberg as the Chief Nurse.

39

40Margaret Duncan: [2:41] Uh, what influenced you to volunteer to go into the service or to join
41 the service?

42

43Madeline Ullom: Well, um, my sister was a graduate of the Army School of Nursing and was
44 in the Army Nurse Corps, and I knew many of her friends and had seen

1 them, and it seemed to me that the army nurses had a very interesting, um,
2 professional life as [stuttering] well as a very interesting life in travel and,
3 uh, uh, cultural pursuits and, uh, historical and just, uh, eh, I thought they
4 were a fairly nice group of people, and I thought well, if I were going to be
5 in nursing, of course I – 30 years – I thought maybe I would like to join
6 them.

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8Margaret Duncan: [3:28] So you – at the time you came in the service, you really came in as a
9 career?

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11Madeline Ullom: Yes, I did. Uh, I had had the opportunity, uh, to come in as a CCC nurse
12 immediately, but I wanted to come in as regular army, and at that time, there
13 were only 625 in the corps, so one had to wait until, uh, someone died or
14 retired. But very fortunately for me, there were several retired at Walter
15 Reed, uh, at the time that I was available to join the corps. And so, uh, I, uh,
16 came from Philadelphia and was stationed at Walter Reed in Washington.

17
18Margaret Duncan: [4:10] What was your pay when you first came in?

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20Madeline Ullom: Seventy dollars a month.

21
22Margaret Duncan: [4:15] Uh, what – were you given equal opportunities for service and
23 education the same as say, uh, the men in the service were?

24
25Madeline Ullom: Well I think probably. Uh, eh, I should say this, I, uh, really have attended a
26 great many army schools or military schools, and I also was graduate of the
27 Quartermaster School, and I was on some of their, uh, projects, uh, from the
28 top of Mount Washington and different places, and the army, uh, sent me to
29 school at Columbia, and they also sent me to school at, uh, [tsk] Catholic
30 University in Washington, DC, and that was very nice assignments because,
31 uh, all one did was, uh, tell them what subjects you were taking, and when
32 you received your grade, send 'em a copy of the grades, and of course you
33 received your pay and maintenance and quarters and all those things. Uh, it
34 was rather strange though. We were attached to different, uh, places at the
35 time. When I was going to school at Columbia, we first were attached to d-,
36 Fort Dix, and then later on at g-, the Governors Island in the, uh, 1st, uh,
37 Army Area. When I was, uh, going to school in Catholic University, I, I
38 was assigned to the engineers at Fort Myers.

39
40Margaret Duncan: Oh, I know that when you were in the Philippines that you were, uh, taken
41 as prisoner of war. [5:52] Can you tell something about that experience?

42
43Madeline Ullom: Well, yes. Uh, of course, uh, it was an ideal assignment, and at the time that
44 I was there, it was considered the choice assign-, one of the choice

1 assignments of the service. Uh, well we really knew something was
2 happening, but we really didn't think that anybody would really declare a
3 war on us. I was stationed at, uh, Sternberg General Hospital in Manila,
4 and, uh, so we soon – and I was almost ready to come back. I had been
5 there a y-, a year and a half, and we had two year tours of duty, and, uh, so
6 there were several of us, uh, ready to come back and two more boats,
7 because at that time, you went over on the boat and then you came back on
8 the boat after your tour was extended. Well while we were there, uh, the
9 Japanese, of course – many people don't realize this, but it was only hours
10 after Pearl Harbor that the Philippines was bombed, and, uh, we were on the
11 other side of the International Date Line, so it was December 8th over there.
12 And the Japanese really came down and pounded us in no uncertain terms.
13 It was just almost amazing. We could hardly believe it. And, uh, it was
14 only a very short time until they were landing forces on Northern Luzon,
15 which is the island on which, uh, Manila is located.

16
17 And of course, there was the evacuation then to, uh, Bataan, uh, Peninsula
18 and to, uh, Corregidor, which was a impenetrable fortress of the Philippines,
19 a conglomerate rock 660 feet high with a tunnel underneath called, uh,
20 Malinta, and, uh, well, uh, eh, eh, it was every day the Japanese were after
21 us, and all our – every day people were going to Bataan. People were going
22 to Corregidor. Well I'm at the end of the alphabet, and I never see my name
23 posted. So, uh, finally, uh, practically everyone was gone. Manilla was
24 declared an open city a-, on, uh, Christmas day, uh, December 25th, and, uh,
25 there were only about, uh, 10 nurses and, uh, about a 10 military people left
26 at Sternberg. So, uh, it was an open city, and it, uh, seemed very strange
27 that we couldn't have a flag flying, no, uh, guns or ammunition, and, uh,
28 [tsk] so then, uh, on the 31st of December early in the morning about 2:00,
29 why we, uh, left Sternberg and went to, uh, Corregidor, landed there in the
30 midst of, uh, an air raid alert, and, uh, we really had planned to go directly at
31 about 2:00 in the morning, but the Japanese were strafing us so that we were
32 kinda dodging around between the sunken vessels in, um, the harbor, and,
33 uh, so when we got to, uh, Corregidor, why, uh, there was a big air raid on,
34 and Corregidor had been very seriously bombed on the 29th of December.

35
36 And, uh, so, uh, we landed there and, uh, went to the, uh, tunnel, and, uh,
37 there was a big hospital set up there, and, uh, so, uh, I did duty there. Uh,
38 usually in the morning. I was not really a permanent party, so, uh, in the
39 mornings, I'd give baths. And, uh, then the Japanese always bombed us
40 usually around noon, so I'd take an early lunch, and then, uh, after lunch, I'd
41 go to the operating room, and Ann Mueller was the Chief Nurse there, and
42 we had worked together in the operating room at Walter Reed, and, uh, so it
43 was kinda back to old times because, uh, we had a great many casualties,
44 and although Ann was now the Chief Nurse on Corregidor, why, uh, she

1 doubled as an anesthetists. Again... Uh, days and nights were practically
2 the same. One never knew when they were gonna be bombed, and we used
3 to say bombed last night and bombed the day before, we're going to be
4 bombed today as we've never been bombed before. And, uh, so, uh, the
5 Japs really – we had a great many casualties, and the Japanese, uh, or course
6 were bound and determined that they were gonna take Bataan, and they did
7 everything for the emperor, and after, uh, Bataan surrendered, why, uh,
8 Corregidor received the full brunt of everything the Japanese had and it was
9 constant shelling, bombing, strafing. And, uh, then the, uh, Japanese of
10 course came and, uh, there was nothing to do but surrender.

11
12 And, uh, I must say that, uh, you really have to admire our soldiers. Well, I
13 mean I take the term soldiers as including the army, the navy, army air
14 force, and coast guard, because we all worked together, and, uh, one did not
15 think of, uh, divisions of service as, uh – for one thing, uh, we had, uh, lost
16 uniforms in the bombings, uh, lost, uh, the equipment that we worked with.
17 And I must say that right from the very beginning we lacked sufficient
18 medication, clothing, food, uh, personnel, equipment, everything that there
19 really was. Uh, and it was wonderful the improvisations that the men made
20 and, uh, how uncomplaining they were. Uh, the Japanese, uh, came onto the
21 island, and, uh, I, I remember, uh, s-, uh, military personnel after military
22 personnel come in with very, uh, grave wounds, and they would often say
23 well, I got 3 or 4 after they got me. Uh, shortly, uh, about 10:00 that
24 morning on the 6th of May, General Wainwright, uh, broadcasts the
25 surrender. But surrender doesn't mean that you take a white flag and you go
26 up and say I surrender. The Japanese, uh, really sent a colonel to accept
27 General Wainwright's surrender, and, uh, there were many negotiations that
28 went on. Uh, General Wainwright said that he was the commander of
29 Luzon, and they insisted he was commander of all the Philippine Islands.

30
31 So, uh, after several days of negotiation and dispatching, uh, liaison officers
32 to the north of the Philippine Islands and to the south, finally the surrender
33 papers were signed. The Japanese, of course, took over the very beginning
34 and, uh, uh, would come along, you know they're short people with long,
35 dragging swords, and they'd clank away through the night when you were
36 on night duty and wake up the patients with those swords dragging along on
37 the floors. Uh, I remember one time that, uh, Miss Davison, who was our
38 Chief Nurse, great person, and, uh, [chuckle] she was – had her bed right
39 inside of this lateral. Of course, the hospital was a group of laterals. There
40 was really 3 tunnels there, and one tunnel interlaced with the next tunnel and
41 all these laterals were, uh, alternating on both sides of the main corridors.
42 Well this one day, a very high-ranking general and all and his assistants of
43 about 20 people stormed into the place, and in our laterals, we were in
44 double-decker and triple-decker beds, and the patients were in double-

1 decker and triple-decker beds too. So this Japanese general decided to come
2 into the nurse's lateral, and, uh, [chuckle] Miss Davison [chuckle] looked at
3 him, and she says, "Halt!" And [chuckle] he was so surprised that he
4 stopped, and she said, "You can't come in here without permission!," and so
5 he turned on his heel and the whole [inaudible 15:38] of them took off.
6

7 And then Miss Davison thought all my goodness, here [chuckle] I told the
8 Japanese general he couldn't come in. So she strode down to the
9 commanding officer to tell him what she did, and, uh, it was only about an
10 hour and there was a great big sign about 3 feet wide and about 4 feet long
11 that was posted in front of our quarters that nobody could come in there
12 unless they had permission. Well the Japanese really wanted to – we stayed
13 over there, uh, in the tunnel for, uh, probably a few more weeks, and our
14 patients not only, uh, had their war wounds, but they had malaria and
15 dengue and tropical diseases. And, um, so then we moved back to the old
16 hospital, which had been bombed on the 29th of December, as I said at the
17 very beginning. Uh, there was only fragments of it left, but there were a
18 couple places where it wasn't too bad; however, the rainy season was
19 coming, and everybody was wondering what would happen when the rainy
20 season came. The Japanese wanted to refortify Corregidor for their own
21 purposes, and, uh, so, uh, they, uh, took the remaining patients, there were
22 probably close to a thousand and the doctors and, uh, the nurses, and we
23 were, uh, loaded on a pla-, uh, ship, and, uh, they took us to Manila. And,
24 uh, they had promised that they would, uh, take us to a school that was all
25 set up as a hospital.
26

27 Uh, the Japanese officer in charge of us spoke excellent English, and he said
28 don't be afraid of me. He said, "I'm a graduate in one of your universities."
29 And he served some tea and some cookies, and so we said well, what are
30 you gonna do with us, and he said well, we're taking you to this schoolhouse
31 outside of Manila. It's all set up as a hospital. And he said there's
32 medicines in the medicine cabinets and there's – the patients will all be
33 unloaded first and be in the beds, and all you have to do is taken care of
34 them. Well we thought that was alright. So, uh, we were the last to be
35 unloaded, and, uh, when we were unloaded, why, uh, they put us in 3 trucks
36 with armed guards, and they took us to Santo Tomas Internment Camp.
37 And there we were very thoroughly searched because we were considered to
38 be dangerous people 'cause we took care of, uh, the military wounded.
39 They would not allow any of the internees to talk with us, and the internees
40 had been kn-, had known for 2 weeks that we were coming. And, uh, they
41 had everything all ready for us, and they were lined on the stairways and at
42 the windows and on the lawn and everyplace. The Japanese would allow no
43 contact with them. And then they took us to the Santa Catalina Girls School

1 and locked us, uh, in 2 rooms for 6 weeks, and we were allowed no contact
2 with the outside world.

3
4 However, after 6 weeks, we went over to Santo Tomas and were told we
5 were going to live there. And, uh, the, uh, Santa Catalina Girls School,
6 where we had been staying in the 2 rooms, was turned into a hospital. We
7 had a men's ward and a women's ward, and, uh, later on we, uh, used the,
8 uh, School of Mines building as an isolation hospital. It was also a
9 children's hospital because we had, uh, 600 children under the age of 16 in
10 camp with us. And we had several clinics. Uh, the, uh, army nurses took
11 charge of the general hospital, the isolation hospital, the main building
12 clinic, the hospital clinic, and the children's clinic. And, uh, we were
13 rotated around and worked in those different places and took care of the
14 internees. The Japanese said we don't have any women in our camp, in our
15 army. You aren't in the army. We don't consider that. Although, they
16 always did recognize that we were army, and there were several times they
17 had high-ranking officers come down from Tokyo, and, uh, they often asked
18 for, uh, about 4 nurses to come over and be interviewed by them.

19
20 It seemed like that, uh, Clara Mueller and Letha McHale and I were always
21 chosen by Miss Davison to talk with them. And, uh, they really, uh, were
22 quite nice. They asked how we were being treated, and of course we told
23 them, and they asked us who we felt, and we told them we didn't like being
24 prisoners and, uh, we really, uh, should be taking care of our military
25 people, and, uh, oh, we'd have about a half hour interview with them and
26 they would take off. Six or eight months later, we'd go through the whole
27 thing again. Uh, we always knew that the Americans would, uh, come and
28 liberate us, although it, uh, it seemed like a [ringing] long, long time.

29
30 Margaret Duncan: The hospital that the Japanese told you was all set up when they brought you
31 from Corregidor from Manila that really didn't materialize. [21:29] Uh,
32 where did they, where did they have the, uh, army wounded? Was that a
33 different place from the internment camp?

34
35 Madeline Ullom: Yes, yes, it was. And of course, we never did see the school, which was out
36 in [Inaudible 21:42], and, uh, men were out there as patients. Later on they
37 were shifted to Bilibid Prison and taken to other places, and of course, some
38 of them, uh, went up to Camp O'Donnell, and uh, to the other prisoner of
39 war camps. And of course, uh, we really sort of believed that officer when
40 he told us that, uh, was where we were going, but we learned, you know, not
41 to believe anything that they said. One time, though, this was quite
42 interesting if you like a little interesting something off the beaten path, um,
43 this Japanese diplomat came into camp, and he got us all on the front plaza
44 and was gonna tell us a few things. And, uh, he seemed quite friendly, and,

1 uh, so, uh, we asked him, uh, how the war was going on. Uh, we were in
2 prison camp and, uh, internment camp and we didn't know what was going
3 on, and we asked him what, uh, he could tell us. Oh, he said, the war's
4 going on very well now for the Japanese. He said we're making a great
5 many advances, and he said, uh, we landed on the West Coast, and we have
6 progressed as far east as Chicago, and, uh, he said we've had a little
7 difficulty there because there's many Indian tribes and the Indians are quite
8 ferocious fighters, and they've slowed us down a little. So of course, we
9 smiled inwardly.

10
11 Um, uh, as time passed on in camp, of course we were only on about 1,500
12 caloric calories a day and it w-, we ate twice a day. We had a plate, cup,
13 and a spoon, and, uh, we g-, got a scoop of, uh, uh, real watery rice, um,
14 morning and evening and a scoop of watery vegetables, and sometimes there
15 were a few shreds of meat in it. And, um, we had to stand in line of course.
16 You always stand in line. We had many roll calls. We had at least 2 roll
17 calls a day, 1 in the morning and 1 at night, and we often had 5 and 6 roll
18 calls in the day. Maybe 2:00 in the morning we'd have a roll call. There
19 were many searches, and you always had to s-, be as you were in all of these
20 things. You couldn't even shift your weight from one foot to the other. You
21 had to be as you were. If you were going up the stairs and 1 foot was on 1
22 step and 1 on the other, that was the way it was.

23
24 Uh, a record was played in the morning to wake us up. And, uh, we, uh,
25 we're in bed at 10:00 at night. And after, uh, 7:00 at night, we had to be in
26 the building. We had a bed space that was, uh, [tsk] 3, uh, 3 feet wide and 6
27 feet long and a 2 foot isle between the beds, and, uh, really we, we became
28 quite streamlined. Uh, fortunately, uh, as we were in Santo Tomas
29 Internment Camp, Santo Tomas was a university, the oldest university under
30 an American flag established by the Dominican in 1611. It's a royal and
31 pontifical university, and the, uh, people there were very good to us. The
32 liaison between the, uh, university and the internees was a professor. And,
33 uh, the Japanese did issue a bar of soap for cleaning ourselves, but we had
34 n-, nothing for cleaning purposes in the, uh, rooms that we occupied or in
35 the hospital. But we had many engineers in camp who with mining
36 companies. There were about – most of the time around 5,000 people in
37 camp. That was men, women, and children.

38
39 Margaret Duncan: [26:04] Uh, then according to what, what you're saying, at the internment
40 camp, they were the civilians...

41
42 Madeline Ullom: Yes.
43

1Margaret Duncan: ...outside of the army nurses? Those were the civilians who and been
2 rounded up in Manilla by the Japanese?

3

4Madeline Ullom: That's right. Th-...

5

6Margaret Duncan: [26:17] They, they were not m-, there were no military prisoners there?

7

8Madeline Ullom: That is correct. And, uh, the, uh, we had practically every nationality except
9 the Germans and the Italians and the Irish Free State, and not only did we
10 have the people who were in Manila, but, uh, at the time that the war was
11 declared, all the ships in the Far East were ordered to the Port of Manila, and
12 the Port of Manila is large and deep. So we had all the people who were
13 coming down from China and all the Far East. We had many people who
14 were out as consultants, uh, anthropologists out on anthropological digs. So
15 we had really a very fine group of people that were all brought in. And of
16 course, uh, everybody came, everybody came to Santo Tomas and was
17 interned there. Later on, the Japanese consolidated their camps and they had
18 ca-, uh, imprison camps down in Davao and Mindanao and the Southern
19 Islands and up in Baguio, and all those people were later brought into our
20 camp. Now we had so many people that the Japanese, uh, really had 2
21 purposes involved. There was a place called Los Banos, and there were
22 some nice springs, and it was very beautiful, and, uh, so they wanted all of
23 us to go down to Los Banos. Well the people we had in camp were very
24 knowledgeable, and they knew that the water supply in Los Banos would
25 probably take care of about 1,500 people or 2,000 at the most but not 5,000
26 people that we had in camp with all the others coming in.

27

28 So, uh, we were always signing – we had a judge in camp, a lawyer, a
29 brilliant lawyer, and he would make out these different forms and, uh, we
30 would say it wouldn't be a – not be possible for us to do this, and then we'd
31 all sign our names to it and send it to the commandant. We were always
32 sending in petitions that we couldn't do this, that, and the other thing.
33 However, they did insist that 400 go down to Los Banos, and they chose
34 them and sent them down, the young people. And they later on sent a
35 couple other groups down to Los Banos. And, uh, s-, but by that time, we
36 were still getting more people coming in from all these outside camps. Uh,
37 as time went on, uh, the Japanese had decided that they were going to have a
38 victory. Straight to Tokyo! On to Tokyo! Clean sweep! And, uh, this was,
39 uh, probably, uh, early in the, uh, spring of 19, uh, 44, and, uh, the Japanese
40 high command with all their military and p-, p-, politicians and everybody
41 had decided that an admiral would have his headquarters in Manila, of
42 course a great big beautiful harbor, and that they would refortify all the
43 fortifications that the United States Army had had, and, uh, uh, refortify

1 them. It would be at least a year before the Americans could possibly come
2 back, absolutely.

3
4 And, uh, [laughter] so, uh, the admiral came and he started his fortifications,
5 uh, rebuilding the airfields that surrounded Manila, refortifying Corregidor
6 and Fort Stotsenburg and all the other posts and shipload and shipload and
7 shipload kept coming in. So, although this was only, eh, only formulated
8 their plans in the spring, by summer the harbor was just full of all these
9 ships, and, uh, so they had dogfights, simulated dogfights every day, so, uh,
10 when the Americans would come in that they could shoot them down and,
11 uh, uh, every day the dogfights went on. Every day the admiral was busy
12 with all his preparations, and, uh, this was only, uh, weeks later, which was
13 the, um, 21st of September, all of the sudden one morning the sky was filled
14 with planes. [crying]

15
16 Margaret Duncan: Okay. And th-, go ahead.

17
18 Madeline Ullom: The sky was filled with planes, and really our, uh, alarm went off the first in
19 the city. The Japanese were so surprised. They really didn't know what to
20 do. Uh, of course the, uh, center of bombing was, uh, Manila Bay, and, uh,
21 they just, uh, pound and pounded those, uh, ships that were there. The noise
22 was terrific. Uh, the ground shook like in an earthquake.

23
24 Margaret Duncan: 31:54[] The Americans had arrived?

25
26 Madeline Ullom: The Americans had arrived, and, uh, and all this ammunition. Uh, the
27 smoke billowed forth. The flames leaped high in the sky. Uh, really the
28 Japanese admiral's, uh, plan went up literally in smoke. The airfields
29 nearby were bombed, and all day long this happened and the next day too.
30 Well the Japanese were so surprised because, uh, they had really believed
31 that it would be a full year before the Americans could possibly come back.
32 Of course, uh, that was the 21st of September. And then on the 20th of
33 October, General MacArthur landed in Leyte and, uh, said I have returned.
34 Um, I, I should really tell you how we found out that he had returned. Every
35 night at, uh, 7:00 when, uh, the, uh, program was going on and, uh, the
36 announcements were made for the next day as to, uh, what group of the
37 [ADC 33:17] women would debug the rice and which number the labor
38 group would work in the garden or collect the garbage or – because
39 everybody in camp had to work. Everybody over the age of 16 had to work
40 unless you had a doctor's certificate. So, uh, Don Bell was the one who ran
41 the broadcasting station, and, uh, so Don Bell – this – they made all his
42 announcements.

1 And, um, then he said, now I realize – see by this time, the people had lost –
2 the men had lost about, oh 40 to 80 pounds and the women had lost 20 to 40
3 pounds, and many of the activities they engaged in in the early days, they
4 could no longer do. It was, you know, you had to take care of yourself and
5 then do a camp duty. And many people were late in reporting for camp
6 duties, and they didn't have much energy. So he said well, I realize that it's
7 hard on you. You've had the tropical diseases, and you have the tropical
8 diseases, and you have lost weight, and I know it's hard, but he said, you
9 know, it's very important, he said, that you do report for duty. Now of
10 course, coming up from Australia, there's Australia, and then, uh, the, uh,
11 different islands coming up. One is Leyte and then, uh, Samar is a smaller
12 island, and the next island is Luzon on which Manila is located. So this
13 night Don Bell kept saying now really, please do report for duty, and if
14 you're late or if you're tardy, he said do report for duty anyway because, he
15 said, you know it's better Leyte than never. Well nobody dared look at each
16 other because we knew it wouldn't be long until the Americans would come
17 in. You know, the first year, b-, we thought they'd be in, you know, at 4th
18 of July. We thought they'd be in at Christmas.

19
20 Well then the next year, we started betting that they would be on, you know,
21 come on Valentine's Day or they would come on Thanksgiving day, and the
22 next year we started betting, and we had, uh, the date and the hour and the
23 minute that they would come. And of course, these were all promissory
24 notes that would be paid after we were liberated. Uh, during the time that,
25 that we were in camp, we did receive 3, uh, Red Cross packages. One of
26 them was for – the first one was from South Africa. The second one was
27 from Canada. And the third was from the United States. In the early days,
28 uh, women were not g-, people in camp were not allowed, the women, to
29 have their knees show, but as time went on and our clothes got worn out,
30 why, uh, uh, there was a little relaxation on all of this, and then we did get
31 the Red Cross packages, and we had a pair of shorts and a shirt in the Red
32 Cross package. So the Japanese did let us wear that because it was about a-,
33 the only clothes people had. Uh, well the, of course after the jap-, uh, the
34 Americans landed on, uh, uh, Leyte, which General MacArthur said I have
35 returned, why the Japanese, uh, you know, cut our rations. We were on
36 about 500 r-, uh, calories a day, and our last issue of food in camp was 200-
37 pound sacks of moldy rice for 5,000 people.

38
39 Uh, our death rate was increasing tremendously. We had, uh, 7 of our
40 patients die in 28 hours of, uh, starvation. That's just an example. And, uh,
41 so, uh, Dr. [Stevenson 37:46] who had been with the Peking Union Medical
42 Center up in China was our Medical Director at the time, and on the death
43 certificates, he had put starvation, malnutrition. Well the Japanese says you
44 can't do that. And he said well that's what they died of. Oh, but we can't

1 have something like that on a death certificate. Well, he said, I have to be –
2 I took an oath and, uh, the Hippocratic Oath, and I have to abide by it. They
3 said we don't care if you did. Uh, it was just like when we would complain
4 about things, uh, they would say, uh, we would say well, according to the
5 Geneva Conference, we should have this, that, and the other thing. Well,
6 they said, we never signed the Geneva Conference. We don't abide by it.
7 So, uh, Dr. [Stevenson 38:32] would not change the cause of death,
8 starvation or malnutrition, on the death certificate, and they said well, we'll
9 put you in the camp jail, and he said well, I, I, I cannot si-, uh, change that.
10 So he was in the camp jail until the Americans came in and liberated us.

11
12 Uh, it was the 1st Calvary and, of course, General Wainwright had been a
13 calvary man, and a, uh, a [column 39:00] of 600 came in from the 3rd of
14 February about 8:00 in the evening, and, uh, we were liberated, but the, uh,
15 Japanese, uh, had gone into the education building where the men lived and
16 had barricaded themselves on the different floors with their machineguns,
17 and we couldn't fire on the Japanese because we'd kill our own people.
18 Negotiations went on all night long, and about 2:00 in the morning, why
19 they finally decided that the next morning at 8:00 we would give the
20 Japanese safe contact outside...

21
22 Margaret Duncan: [39:44] Safe [inaudible 39:45] conduct out?

23
24 Madeline Ullom: Uh-huh, a c-, uh, and conduct them outside of the city to a certain point, and
25 we would let them carry their arms with them. [tsk] Uh, one of the very
26 annoying disturbances that we always had in camp was that we had to bow
27 to every Japanese every time we met them regardless of their rank. You
28 stayed 6 paces away, and you bowed very slowly from the waist and you,
29 uh, were very – with your arms very stiffly at your side. And what really
30 got us was the philosophy behind it because that meant that we expressed
31 our appreciation to the Japanese for what they did.

32
33 And for what they did was anything but what was desirable. So, uh, they in
34 turn would bow to us to show that they accepted our appreciation. Well, as I
35 told you in the early times, we had about 600 children in camp, so the next
36 morning at 8:00 while the Japanese were lined up for [inaudible 41:00], and,
37 uh, the American soldiers were going to give them their conduct out of the
38 camp. And, uh, so everybody came out to see them march off, and, uh, little
39 children said, "Make 'em bow! Make 'em bow!" Well the American
40 shoulders didn't know about the bowing, and they just thought that these
41 children had been in camp too long, you know, and the boys and girls would
42 come up to the soldiers and say "Make 'em bow! Make 'em bow!" And they
43 would ignore them. So finally one soldier said to the one little bow, he tried

1 to soothe him, and he said well how would you like an ice cream cone, and
2 the little fella looked at him and said what's an ice cream cone. [laughter]

3

4Margaret Duncan: [41:55] Where did you go, uh, after the – you were liberated by the
5 Americans? Where did you go then?

6

7Madeline Ullom: Well after we were liberated, we were still in there about 12 more days, and,
8 uh, the Japanese shelled the camp, and we had many casualties, and, um, we
9 took care of the patients. And then, uh, on the, uh, 11th of, uh, February, uh
10 a hospital came in and on the 12th, we went to Leyte and, uh, they, uh, put
11 us in the hospital down there, and then the next day a-, about 10 of our girls
12 were quite ill, and, uh, the next day, they, uh, everybody wanted to talk with
13 us and every-, everybody wanted to ask questions, and we were tired, you
14 know, so, uh, they made, uh, hos-, tent hospital down on the beaches, and
15 there we had our physicals, and there we were interviewed with all the
16 different kinds of interviewing. And so then, uh, we flew to Janssen,
17 Ireland, and then we flew to Hawaii where we had our – we got permanents
18 and fingernail polish and, and, uh, they opened the PX early in the morning,
19 and we shopped, and then we went on to, uh, San Francisco and were
20 patients at Letterman. And then we, uh, went home for a month or two, and
21 then we went, uh – we could have our choice of rehabilitation at Lake
22 Placid, New York, or Atlantic City or Santa Barbara or Miami, and, uh, I
23 chose Lake Placid, New York, which was really lovely. And then we could
24 be assigned back to duty, and we could go anywhere we wanted to.

25

26Margaret Duncan: I have a couple questions to ask you. [43:54] What about the, what about
27 your uniforms while you were in the Philippines?

28

29Madeline Ullom: Well of course, we had worn the white, nice white starched uniform and c-,
30 cap. Well, uh, they had said when there's an air raid on, you hit the dirt, so
31 you could imagine what these uniforms were like when you hit the dirt. So
32 the only thing that was available w-, we had a whole warehouse full of size
33 46 coveralls, and so we were all issued 2 pair of f-, size 46 coveralls to wear
34 as a uniform. Now I know I could get into one leg of the uniform. We'd
35 been taught that you don't destroy government property, so this bothered us
36 a great deal; however, we had nice Chinese tailors, and they cut down the 2
37 pair of size 46 coveralls, and made us, uh, some that fit us. So we wore
38 those. Uh, we did have some West Point drill over on Corregidor, the kaki,
39 and, uh, the Chinese tailors made, uh, 2 skirts for each of us, and we wore
40 the men's shirt that, uh, and cut the sleeves off and rolled 'em up above the
41 elbow. Uh, we, uh, at that time were very conscious of wearing a cap on
42 duty, and we wore the little overseas cap on duty. Uh, when, uh, we were,
43 uh, in Santo Tomas, that was our uniform too. Uh, we got down to, uh,
44 Leyte, and, uh, the girls were very nice to us down there.

1
2 They gave us lipstick and, and, oh a lot of, you know, combs and a lot of
3 things like that, and they gave us a little garment. It was a seersucker affair,
4 and, uh, w-, gave one to each of us, and we looked at them and we thought
5 they were kinda nice, so the next morning when we took a shower, why we
6 said oh, my, you know, the army got [really 45:53] very sensible, uh, th-, uh,
7 making these little bathrobes for us, and, uh, so [chuckle] we, uh, took them
8 off and put our uniforms on and went to breakfast and – so then some of the
9 nurses there said, uh, what do you think of the uniforms, and well, we said
10 we don't know, uh. They said you don't? And we said no, we haven't seen
11 them. And they said, um, well, we gave each of you a uniform last night,
12 and, uh, we stopped a minute, and then we said you mean those seersucker
13 jobs? And they said yes. We said oh, we thought those were bathrobes.
14 [chuckle]

15
16 Well, uh, we got back to the states, or course, and, uh, there again the, uh,
17 we're having the beige uniforms, and they had the dress uniform, a, a single
18 dress, uh, kinda beige with maroon on it, and then a, a skirt and a shirt, and
19 we had all those and, and, uh, the greens and – these were all things that
20 were very different to us. I must tell you too, though, while we were down
21 in Leyte, another thing that bothered us terribly was that we kept hearing,
22 um, we need wax so badly. Oh, it'll be so good when we get more wax, and,
23 uh, there's a whole shipload of wax coming in. Well we kinda thought
24 maybe they had different ways of doing things, but for the life of us we
25 could not understand why everybody was so concerned about the wax. And
26 so finally we said well, would you mind telling us what it is that you're so
27 anxious to get all this wax and you're getting a whole [laughter] shipload of
28 it? And they stopped a minute and said oh, I guess you don't know. W-, no
29 we don't! Well they said, uh, this is the Women's Army Corps, [laughter]
30 which we had thought was W-A-X. We really had quite a learning process
31 after we came back.

32
33Margaret Duncan: [48:04] You were out of contact with everything for what 3 years when you?
34

35Madeline Ullom: Right.
36

37Margaret Duncan: [48:08] Three years and three years in the prison camp?
38

39Madeline Ullom: Right.
40

41Margaret Duncan: And this was a 3-year revolutionary time as far as the United States was
42 concerned.
43

44Madeline Ullom: Oh, yes.

1

2Margaret Duncan: And the Army Nurse Corps and the Army with, with everything.

3

4Madeline Ullom: I must really tell you, too, that, uh, uh, one morning, uh, I was going along
5 taking a little walk early in the morning. And I wasn't on duty, and I met
6 Ann Mueller, the Chief Nurse, and she said oh, Madge, would you go and
7 take care of Miss Davison? She is very ill, and she has to have somebody
8 with her, and I said sure, Ann, I'll be glad to do it. I said, as soon as I, uh, I
9 had my shorts on and my little shirt. I said as soon as I change into my
10 uniform. She said Miss Davison is so sick she won't know what you have
11 on. So she said you go on just as you are. And I said boy, this is great,
12 taking care of the chief nurse of the Philippines in a pair of shorts and a
13 shirt. [laughter]

14

15 Well we used to often say we wonder what the people in Washington would
16 say, you know, eh, if they could see some of the things that, uh, we did and
17 some things that we had, but w-, we really, uh, had to get along with what
18 we had at the time. When we got to Hawaii, they said oh, we'd like to take
19 you out to Schofield Barracks, and we'd like to show you how to improvise
20 in the field. Well we said, thank you, we appreciate that, but if you don't
21 mind, we think we know how to improvise [chuckle] because, you know,
22 coat hangers had been, you know, a little branch of a tree and a little piece
23 of a vine, you know, to hang it up because, uh, over on Bataan, why the sky
24 was the roof of the hospital and the ground was the floor. And, uh, you
25 know, it was improvisation all the way.

26

27Margaret Duncan: We've talked about your service during the war. [50:07] What are some of
28 the highlights, the things that you accomplished, uh, after the war was over
29 for the rest of the time that you were in the service?

30

31Madeline Ullom: Uh, well, it involves a great deal, but, uh, I just sort of, uh, something
32 happened at Fitzsimons that stands out a little bit. Uh, I was Assistant Chief
33 Nurse, and I was Educational Coordinator and, and, uh, a few more things.
34 Uh, it seemed like I was always – for so much of the time, I was always on
35 so many committees. Uh, um, but when I, uh, going back to Fitzsimons as
36 Educational Coordinator, we had, um, an affiliation with Loretta Heights
37 College and with, uh, Union College and, uh, with Mercy Hospital,
38 Presbyterian Hospital. And, uh, practically one of the things that almost
39 drove me distracted when I got there was that, uh, all these people were
40 coming in our their, uh, affiliations, and of course, we had many army
41 schools, too, at phil-, at, uh, Fitzsimons. There was the anesthesia school
42 and the – then later on, there was a school, uh, for intensive care, training
43 nurses for intensive care. Well there were just many, many programs going
44 on. And here were all these, uh, civilian institutions bringing out their

1 people, and, uh, so I immediately went over to the Judge Advocate and said,
2 uh, I need a lot of help on all this. I, uh, think that these contracts can be
3 rewritten a little bit and made a little different. So I worked very hard. In
4 fact, every morning I used to go to the [chuckle] Judge Advocate and, uh,
5 revise these contracts so that all of them really read the same.
6

7 And also, uh, in the contracts that we had, when the st-, those student nurses
8 were out there for their, um, experience that their graduate nursing instructor
9 was with them and was responsible for everything that they did. I've really
10 felt that, uh, that was a big step. Uh, we also at that time too, that they
11 became on a regular, uh, rotation basis and that 3 months before each
12 rotation for the entire year began that it was spelled out in the contract, and
13 our contracts were made out for 1 year in advance. Um, it seemed like, uh,
14 Fitzsimons of course, just has a wealth of material. and, uh, so the Indian
15 service decided that they had many of their nurses out in isolated posts, and,
16 uh, they were small little hospitals, and they decided that they needed some
17 refresher work. So we worked. They asked us at Fitzsimons to help them,
18 and so we worked with them and, uh, set up a rotation with the Indian
19 service in, uh, pediatrics and then ob-, in obstetrics for a 3 months course.
20 And, uh, we took, uh, 2 nurses in pediatrics and 2 nurses in obstetrics and
21 we started a rotation in the Indian service. Uh, I was quite active in many
22 aspects of nursing, and I had been at Fitzsimons before as Director of the
23 Medical Technician School, which was s-, uh, 2 classes of 16, uh, people in
24 each class each year.
25

26 And, uh, so I was active in the, uh, League for Nursing, and I was Chairman
27 of the uh, uh, Practical Nurse Council and was very active in the
28 Administrative, uh, Council of the Nurses in, uh, Denver. And, um. a-,
29 another interesting experience which I had was I was sent out on the Bond
30 Drive, and I had the great State of Alabama. So every weekend, I went to
31 Birmingham and, uh, received my assignment for the next week. It was a
32 most enjoyable experience. I, uh, was a week in Montgomery and a week in
33 Mobile and then a week in Jasper and so on and so forth. And those
34 southerners carried me around in southern hospitality with roses in my room
35 when I arrived and worked very hard. [As 54:56] I started in in the
36 mornings, uh, with a 6:00 breakfast program, and then I went to the schools
37 and talked with the schoolchildren and then went to the Women's Club at
38 10:00 in the morning, and, uh, from there went to the Kiwanis and the Lions
39 and all those clubs, and in the afternoon back again to the women's bridge
40 clubs and their teas and parties and then at night again to the rallies and so
41 on and so forth.
42

43 Anyway, we made our quota and our super quota and \$100,000 over our
44 super quota in the, uh, Bond Drive. It had so happened that, uh, when I was

1 going to quartermaster school we had a course in public speaking, and there
2 were only 6 in each class. We had 2 classes because there were only 12 of
3 us. We had a lawyer from Boston who taught us public speaking, and he
4 was really rugged on us. So it was right a-, about a month after that I went
5 out on the Bond Drive, so I tried to put into effect, uh, all the things he
6 taught us in public speaking.
7

8Margaret Duncan: You've had some wonderful experiences as far as the service is concerned.
9 [56:15] Can you compare service careers then with what the service careers
10 are like at the present?
11

12Madeline Ullom: Well I think there's a great deal of improvement in, uh, what has happened.
13 The hours of duty, the, uh, uh – of course when I was in the army in the
14 early days if you were married why you had to get out right away, and of
15 course now, you not only can have your husband but your children and so
16 on and so forth. The, uh – I think it's much more lenient and more humane,
17 and, uh, I think that, uh, of course the pay scale is a, a great deal more. Uh,
18 I think probably right now, though, there's something that I should mention,
19 and, um, uh, that is that, uh, we always felt when we were over in the islands
20 and so on and so forth that we had our duty to do and that was the most
21 important aspect and that was it. Uh, we came back and, uh, well I – we
22 were in things like the Bond Drive and so on and so forth but nothing
23 terribly spectacular. And then, uh, uh, uh, 2 years ago, why the Veterans
24 Administration, uh, 40 years later decided that they should recognize us.
25 So, uh, Dorothy Starbuck who was in charge of veterans' benefits, uh,
26 worked very hard and contacted each and every, uh, uh, one of us, and, uh,
27 we were invited to Washington, and we spent, uh, 3 days you might say on
28 cloud 9.
29

30 There'd never been anything before like it and probably never will again. It
31 was almost unbelievable. It started in as a very simple, uh, affair. I had, uh,
32 been appointed a member of the Advisory Committee to, uh, uh, the
33 administrator, the Veterans' Affairs on, uh, former prisoners of war and, uh,
34 had gone back to a meeting, and they had asked me if, uh, I would like to
35 stay over 1 day and attend the POW MIA affairs at the Pentagon, and I said
36 yes. And they said we're going to invite all the, uh, people who were with
37 you. And I said well, I think that's fine. And then everybody sort of got on
38 the bandwagon, and they all wanted to do something, and they would say
39 well, what can we do. Uh, we want to do something. What can we
40 contribute? What has to be done? Well this 3-day gala event was constant.
41 And, uh, the Assistant, uh, Secretary of Defense, uh, had a reception for us
42 at the Pentagon, and, uh, Caspar Weinberger talked, uh, in general, and then
43 he talked to each one of us individually. We chatted and so on and so forth.
44 The Veterans of Foreign Wars had a gala celebration for us. Mr., uh, Senate

1 – Congressman Hammerschmidt had a flag flown over the Capitol and each
2 one of our names.
3
4 The, um, commander gave us a huge parchment, uh, uh, r-, uh,
5 commendation. Uh, the, uh – and vets had a big celebration over in
6 Baltimore, and, uh, we were their guests and they gave us books and many
7 memorabilia. Of course, uh, we went to the Whitehouse, and, uh, uh, the
8 President, Regan, talked with us, and then, uh, he shook hands individually
9 with each one and sent us an autographed picture of us shaking hands with
10 him. [tsk] And, uh, we wanted to go to the cemetery in Arlington because
11 several of our girls are buried there. And, uh, the curator, uh, personally
12 conducted us on the tour through Arlington. The Medical Surgical
13 Department of the Veterans Administration had a beautiful luncheon for us
14 at the Sheraton. And, uh, well it was just 3 days of which we were on cloud
15 9, and Dorothy Starbuck said it's mighty quiet since you people left.
16
17 Margaret Duncan: [1:00:59] This is the time that – when you were, uh, a guest on, um, [tsk]
18 uh...
19
20 Madeline Ullom: The Today Show.
21
22 Margaret Duncan: ...Toda-, Today, Today Show.
23
24 Madeline Ullom: Yes.
25
26 Margaret Duncan: [1:01:18] This – these are the things that you've b-, sort of been into since
27 you retired from the service?
28
29 Madeline Ullom: Correct.
30
31 Margaret Duncan: You've done a lot of, uh, Veterans Affairs work and, uh, things like that.
32 [1:01:17] What else have you done since you've retired from the service?
33
34 Madeline Ullom: Oh, I've been, uh, I was very active in many organizations, like I was
35 Commander for the American Legion Post on the Executive Committee.
36 And I was, uh, on the, the American Association University Women's, uh,
37 representative to the Tucson Council for the Aging and [Inaudible 1:01:40]
38 Council for the Aging, and I was the secretary, and I was on the Executive
39 Board. And, um, oh, of course, I was very active in Practical Nurse affairs
40 and, uh, spoke at many of their national conventions and many of their
41 workshops and, uh, when I was in El Paso why I was, uh, President of the
42 League for Nursing and, uh, g-, uh, c-. The army sent me to, um, University
43 of Pittsburgh where I learned how to conduct workshops, and, uh, I
44 conducted many of them in, uh, El Paso and was very active in doing things

1 like that. I've always been interested in art, and I always wanted to paint, so
2 I took, uh, private lessons in painting. And I work in all media – oils and
3 watercolors and pastels and inks and, uh, Conte crayons and, uh, uh,
4 collages and every aspect of that. Uh, I like to travel. I took a trip around
5 the world, and I had many – I've been back to the Philippines 4 times, and,
6 uh, I was back in 1967 when we dedicated the cem-, the American cemetery
7 and the Filipino cemetery and the, uh, shrine at, uh, Corregidor and also the
8 Alter of Freedom from the Shrine of Valor on, uh, Bataan.

9
10 Uh, I was back, uh, with the, uh – that was when I was back with the
11 headquarters of the Southwest Pacific, and, uh. Oh, we went to many of the
12 places I had heard about and, uh, and visited many headquarters. Um, [tsk]
13 of course, we m-, many times we always went to Malacanang Palace and
14 chattered with, uh, President Marcos. Uh, the last time I was back, I went
15 back with the 503rd Regimental Combat Unit, which was the, uh, parachute
16 group with, uh, General Jones who lives in Tucson, and, uh, they were the
17 people who, uh, retook the island of Corregidor, and he presented it to
18 General MacArthur, and, uh, so he said General MacArthur, I present to you
19 Corregidor. Well, you know, in the earlier days, why they had a broadcast
20 station on Corregidor, and every broadcast always ended with Corregidor
21 still stands, you know, the impenetrable fortress. Well, when Japanese took
22 over, why you know what the Americans said, Corregidor still stands under
23 new management. Well anyway, General Jones retook Corregidor and
24 presented it to General MacArthur, and he said I see the old flagpole still
25 stands. It was, uh, the flagpole was made from the, uh, lead ship of the
26 Admiral Dewey's Spanish-American Fleet, and, uh, he said I see the old
27 flagpole still stands. He said hoist the colors to the top and let no enemy
28 ever haul it down.

29
30 And, uh, of course, our big event in Santo Tomas was when, uh, uh, the
31 Japanese went out of the camp and they raised the flag, the American flag,
32 and, uh, we all sang God Bless America. And, uh, one time in camp, why,
33 uh, uh, we had a 4th of July a, affair. We had to do it rather surreptitiously,
34 but the children, the 600 children, our little children had, uh, prayed, and
35 they were dressed as, uh, soldiers and sailors, and, uh, you had to know it
36 was a soldier or sailor because, uh, it was just some little thing that was
37 symbolic, but a little 4-year-old girl was the Indian maiden, and she had a
38 feather in her hair, and, uh, she carried a little flag in her hand, and, uh,
39 everybody knew it, and everybody gave appropriate recognition. Uh, we
40 had many exciting experiences and many very different. You, of course,
41 never knew from one time to another what was gonna happened next, and
42 you, uh, just took everything for granted...

43
44 Margaret Duncan: [Oh 1:06:22].

1
2Madeline Ullom: ...did the best you could under the circumstances.
3
4Margaret Duncan: [1:06:26] Well since you've retired, then you certainly have never been
5 bored?
6
7Madeline Ullom: I don't have enough...
8
9Margaret Duncan: [1:06:30] You've been busy?
10
11Madeline Ullom: I don't have enough time. I really don't. I just don't have enough time.
12 And, uh, uh, I've been quite active. Uh, last year when I was out at the
13 American Ex-Prisoner of War, uh, Convention in, uh, Seattle, I was on a
14 panel with, uh, the Dean of the Medical School of the University of
15 Washington and Dr. Cohen who was the Assistant Medical Director of the
16 VA, and we all received beautiful plaques for our presentation and our work
17 in medical research. And being on the Advisory Committee of Former
18 Prisoners of War is not only our meetings in Washington for a couple days
19 about every 3 months, but we were constantly all the time, uh, it's nothing to
20 get airmail express correspondence, and you return to so and so the, the –
21 just the other day, I was down in, uh, Albuquerque. I went to the American
22 Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Convention, and General Flynn who is,
23 uh, our Chairman, and he was a prisoner of the Vietcong for 5-1/2 years,
24 and, uh, he was the guest speaker at the banquet, and, uh, uh, s-, there were
25 3 or 4 members of the Advisory Committee there, and of course, I'll be
26 going back to Washington next month for – on the 15th of June for a
27 meeting on the 16th and 17th. Well that's the way it goes.
28
29Margaret Duncan: [1:08:05] Looking back on your, uh, years in the service, what demanded
30 the greatest adjustment, uh, the uniforms or living with others, regulations,
31 lack of freedom [inaudible 1:08:18]? What do you think demanded the
32 greatest adjustment?
33
34Madeline Ullom: I don't know. It's a, it's a, it's a little difficult to really say. Uh, I had taught
35 school for 4 years before I went in training, and, uh, after having been a
36 teacher and then being a probationer [chuckle] in training at a very strict
37 medical college hospital, and Jefferson was very strict, uh, that was a terrific
38 adjustment. And, uh, there was another girl in my class who had also taught
39 school for 4 years, and, uh, really the 2 of us, uh, worked together, uh, very
40 much, and [chuckle] we used to often look at each other and smile. Uh, Kay
41 also joined the Army Nurse Corps.
42
43 Uh, I don't know what was the greatest adjustment. I guess probably, uh,
44 when I went to the Philippines in peace time, uh, there was no air

1 conditioning, and it was very hot in the tropics, and, uh, we worked what
2 they call tropical hours. All the main work was done in the morning, and at
3 12:30, uh, for the afternoon, it was a skeleton crew just like night duty.
4 And, uh, when we were in the Philippines, uh, we were supposed to be in
5 perfect health and not get sick while we were over there because the boat
6 only came every 3 months to take people back on rotation and bring the new
7 ones. So there was nobody to take your place if you got sick. And that w-,
8 it was supposed to go on your record if you ate something and got sick. Uh,
9 that was your responsibility. There were only very few places in Manila
10 that we could eat outside of the post. And, uh, so it was very strange to us.
11 Uh, later on, when we were in camp, of course, [chuckle] all those things
12 were gone to the wind, and our – in the early days in camp, they did give us
13 rice bread, but the rice bread would be stacked up on the ground, and you
14 dusted it off and ate it, and of course, later on, of course, we all had amoebic
15 dysentery and bacillary dysentery, and we got Dengue. We got all the
16 tropical diseases.

17
18 I suppose that the way of life in the Philippines, uh, of course, at the time I
19 went over there, it was very much, uh, like it had been in the earlier days,
20 and, uh, no self-respecting white girl would be seen out on the streets after
21 6:00 in the evening without an escort. And, uh, there were not too many
22 white, uh, girls available over there, and, uh, really we had a wonderful
23 social time. We spent a great deal of time at the Army and Navy Club, and
24 we went to Baguio for, uh, uh, rest and recreation, which did not count
25 against your leave or you took a trip to the Southern Islands. Uh, since, uh,
26 w-, I had planned on coming back to the states of course, uh, shortly after
27 the war began, which was before, why Miss Davison had said, uh – we had
28 asked if we could go to Southern Islands either over Christmas or New
29 Year's, and she said why you can be gone over both of them on your 10
30 days. [chuckle] [Inaudible 1:11:56] of course. [chuckle]

31
32 Margaret Duncan: [1:11:59] What was the, what was the most unpopular regulation that you
33 think you ever encountered in the, uh, army, your army service?
34

35 Madeline Ullom: Gee, I don't know. I don't know. It's just hard to say. Sometimes there's
36 parts of 1 that I didn't like and o-, other parts that I could live with. I, I
37 really just don't know which one I would say. Uh...

38
39 Margaret Duncan: Well I think really, um, you, you had such an interesting life in the service,
40 and, uh, uh, parts of your service you enjoyed a great deal, parts of it were
41 with shall we say great sorrow...

42
43 Madeline Ullom: Well you know...

44

1Margaret Duncan: ...but, um...

2

3Madeline Ullom: ...one thing I could always console myself with was I asked to go over to
4 the Philippines.

5

6Margaret Duncan: Yeah.

7

8Madeline Ullom: And, uh, one day the Chief Nurse at Walter Reed said to me, uh, do you still
9 want to go to the Philippines, and I said oh, yes, it's exactly what I want to
10 do. And uh, she said, uh, well, uh, you sure you – that's what you want to
11 do. Oh, I said, absolutely. I want to, I want to join the, uh, I want to go over
12 to the Philippines, and she said well, you'll probably go in June if you don't
13 in September. I think probably maybe one of the hardest things for me was
14 that after having taught school for 4 years, and I, I got through training
15 because I wanted to be a nurse, and then I got to Walter Reed, and we had
16 very few young nurses there. And I looked the situation over, and, uh, we
17 had quite a few nurses who had 14, 16, 18 years service, and we had the
18 ones that were had, you know, 24 to 30 years and were gonna retire, and
19 they were they. And you know you were low man on the totem pole, and,
20 uh, so, uh, uh, it was, you know, uh, well you got the relief. You got the
21 night duty. You got all those things. Well ordinarily they didn't sent people
22 to the Philippines unless you had about 10, 12, 14 years service, and there
23 were, uh, 4 of us in Walter Reed.

24

25 Well Clara Mueller had 14 years service, but Adela Foreman and Sue
26 Downing and I only had about 2, so we asked to go to the Philippines, and
27 they sent us. And, uh, the 3 – all 4 of us were stationed at Sternberg in
28 Manila. And we were working with doctors I just worked with at Walter
29 Reed, and if they weren't there then, there were more that came. So it was
30 pretty much the Walter Reed crew that was over there. Well of course, uh,
31 we had a lot of extra rooms at Sternberg, and, uh, it was a tropical, uh,
32 nurses' quarters, and when the nurses came from the outpost, why they
33 always stayed there. So a little standing joke between the 3 of us was that
34 when people would come down we'd be introduced to them, why, uh, we
35 would say, uh, how many years have you been in the service, and of course,
36 it was always oh, 12 or 14 or 16 or something like that, and then they'd say
37 and how long have you been in the service? Two years. [chuckle] So that
38 was a kind of a standing joke, and of course, we sat at the last table in the
39 dining room and our, [or our 1:15:32] rooms were in [inaudible 1:15:32],
40 but we didn't mind it.

41

42 And we had made a promise to each other, uh, the 3 of us when we were on
43 the boat coming over that we would not get lazy in the Philippines, that we
44 were going to do something interesting all the time. So every day instead of

1 taking the siesta when, uh, we weren't on duty, I – we would go to the hat
2 factories and the tobacco factories and, and to the agricultural colleges and
3 to the forest, and they were doing research work and everything in those
4 places. And really every d-, day we went out, and we really learned a great
5 deal about the islands and had a marvelous time, and, uh, or course we'd
6 been going on our third year of service [chuckle] at that time. It was a big
7 joke with us.
8

9Margaret Duncan: [1:16:24] Do you think you ever experienced any conflict between being
10 feminine and being a military professional?
11

12Madeline Ullom: No, I don't think so. Uh, when, uh, when we went over the Philippines, of
13 course, we were, uh, known as Miss. They didn't call you by your rank. It
14 was w-, relative rank we had, so we were Miss, but after we got out of
15 [inaudible 1:16:48] why, of course, we, uh, the rules and regulations had
16 changed, and we now had the rank office-, of an officer. When, uh, we were
17 in Hawaii, uh, they kept paging and paging somebody, and, uh, nobody
18 answered this page. So somebody came up and said to this girl, you're being
19 paged, don't you know it? And she said no. And they said well, didn't you
20 hear them calling Lieutenant so and so. Well, she said, yes, I did. Well they
21 said that's you. Oh, she said, I didn't know. [laughter] So of course, uh we
22 had a time on catching up on the rank because we weren't used to that, and,
23 uh, at that time too, you know, the, uh, and the s-, men would call you Sir,
24 you know, and we weren't, uh, accustomed to any of those things [inaudible
25 1:17:42].
26

27Margaret Duncan: Well, uh, I think this, uh, sort of concludes our interview, and thank you
28 very much.
29

30Madeline Ullom: Well thank you very much. It was great talking with you.
31
32
33/lo