

Interview of Anne Noreen Bauer
on her twenty-eight year career as an United States Army nurse

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5 Jane: ...[inaudible 0:01] Fort Benjamin Harrison women who are members of WOSL,
6 better known as Women's Overseas Service League. I have with me Major Nora
7 Hazelmeier who is a retired army nurse. She is now our President of WOSL. The
8 other person is Lieutenant Colonel Anne Noreen Bauer. That's spelled B-A-U-E-
9 R. And Anne is going to tell us about her 28 years of military service as an army
10 nurse. [0:39] Anne, would you tell us this?

11
12 Anne Bauer: Yes. I started out as a registered nurse, graduating from St. Joseph Hospital in
13 Mishawaka, Indiana, in 1938. At that time, I accepted a position with Dr.
14 [Whitlock 0:57] as his surgical nurse and his office nurse until the bombing of
15 Pearl Harbor. And at this time, uh, I became a little antsy because we were getting
16 letters from the Indiana State Board of Nurses requesting, uh, volunteers for
17 nurses, that if they did not meet their quota, they may have to draft them. I wasn't
18 about to be drafted.

19
20 But in the meantime, my roommate in training, who also worked for a doctor, uh,
21 insisted on me going in the Service with her. Of course, I didn't know anything
22 about the Army Nurse Corps at this point, but she kept thinking that this would be
23 a good thing for us. Finally, we checked into it and found out that we could not go
24 in until we joined the American Red Cross. So we started those papers, and we
25 were both accepted in the American Red Cross and were given appointments for,
26 uh, a physical examination. I discussed this with the doctor I worked for, and he
27 said well, I'm glad you're taking this step because, he said, I'm ROTC. I'm hot for
28 military service, he said even though I have a family, and he said if I go in, I will
29 go in as a surgeon with a major rank, and if I'm drafted, I'll go in as a lieutenant.
30 So he said you let me know what you decide. He said I really don't want to break
31 up the office unless you, uh, unless you do. So I had my preliminary physical and
32 then was given a physical for Chicago, at which time, uh, I went, uh, to the
33 military, uh, physical professional services and had my physical and waited if I
34 would be accepted or not.

35
36 So I finally did get orders that, uh, when would I be available of which I said
37 August 15, 1942, so the doctor and I could close the office, etc. [throat clearing]
38 Excuse me. At that time, um, he had already put in his papers, and in order for me
39 to, uh, go into the Service, I would go in as relative rank, a second lieutenant. I
40 took my Oath of Office on the 24th of August 1942, and went on active duty by
41 bus to Fort Benjamin Harrison on the 25th of August. And at this time, I had my
42 orientation by a Colonel [Ann 3:57] Anderson, and she, uh, gave me a complete
43 orientation of the Army Nurse Corps, and of course, I had – of the post and, uh,
44 etc., but had, had not had any basic training of course. And I was 27 years old.

1 And I had requested if there was a possibly of going into the regular army, and
2 she said no, the books were closed [but if 4:26] she was so glad that I was
3 interested, and if so, she wanted to know if wanted to put a letter to that effect in
4 my file. We proceeded, and fortunately, that saved me many years later because
5 you had to be 27 years old to join, get into regular. You couldn't be older than 27
6 to be – get in the regular army at that time.
7
8Jane: [4:52] Well, Anne, if you went into the regular army, would you have been a
9 nurse?
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11Anne Bauer: I was a nurse, yes.
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13Jane: [4:57] You would have been a nurse?
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15Anne Bauer: And then you went in as a nurse.
16
17Jane: Uh-huh.
18
19Anne Bauer: And you were commissioned as a second lieutenant at that time because I had no
20 degree, but that, that wasn't really taken into effect at that time anyway.
21
22Jane: [5:09] Okay, but I thought you j-, you had to join through the American Red
23 Cross?
24
25Anne Bauer: Well that was only t-, to go into active duty.
26
27Jane: I see.
28
29Anne Bauer: Yes. So, because at that time, since regular army was closed, the rest was
30 volunteer Red Cross, like, like the schoolteachers, the social workers, or anyone
31 else was. And so anyway, I was assigned to a surgical ward, and, eh, that wasn't
32 the only thing, the head nurse on that ward that oriented me was already assigned
33 to an overseas assignment. And these were all under security r-, eh, purposes at
34 that time. You didn't know where you were going for sure. Some places, you
35 might know you were going to Europe or the Far East or England, but that was it.
36 And she gave me a thorough report of the entire service, uh, on her section, which
37 was recovery. The other thing is, uh, she was a very talented, a very, um, a
38 learned person, and she said, uh, in case you don't know this, you're going to take
39 over my duties as the head nurse, which I did. Her name was [Inaudible] [Brown
40 6:31], from Kentucky somewhere. Then, uh, 6 months later, here I get overseas
41 orders, and I was in route to parts unknown. Our, uh, orders gave a – we had a, a
42 head nurse assigned to us, and I forget how many of us there were. We were put
43 on a train at Fort Harrison, a troop train, and went into Indianapolis. We were put
44 in a CO car temporarily until we got to Chicago.

1
2 And the head nurse was to open up these order envelopes as we stopped and, and
3 had changes, and that told you where to go, how, how to get there, whether it was
4 a cab or a bus, and to get to a certain train and a certain track. And from there we
5 went on, and we ended up in, uh, California. Uh, this was a very interesting thing
6 to me because we went to Camp Stoneman, and the only training we had had was
7 at Fort Harrison, which was how to salute and, uh, do a little marching, and we
8 had a little bit of bivouacking, not much, and when we got to Camp Stoneman, we
9 really had, over the debarkation net, we had the whole business. And we were out
10 in the mud and every other kind of features that you could imagine. Then, uh, we
11 were put on a, um, a ferry many weeks later, and this was in, uh, in February, uh,
12 that we, uh, left, we left, yeah, so it was in February. We boarded this ferry and,
13 uh, went down to San Francisco, in which we boarded the, uh, West Point. Now
14 this was all in the dark late at night, no lights, no anything. And the West Point
15 was the [convert 8:34] of America for troopship purposes. So we boarded this,
16 and we were on the water for 6 weeks.

17
18 And during this period of time, we had, um, not only boat drill and the usual
19 training that we had for disasters and so on, but finally, one day, we were in the
20 mess hall, at least I was in the mess hall, which was a converted swimming pool,
21 fabulous big place. We had our trays and were to a place to seating, and the ship
22 took [alerts 9:10], made a complete [go around 9:12]. There were, um, submarines
23 chasing us in the waters. Uh, I got a sprained ankle, what I thought was a sprained
24 ankle at that time. There were quite a few injuries but nothing too great. And, uh,
25 I had to favor that quite a bit of which I still have problems. We also had, um,
26 meningitis. Uh, well what do you want to call it, eh, we had quite a few. We even
27 had sea burials because we couldn't take them with us. And finally we ended up,
28 after 6 weeks on the water on this troop ship, we landed on Bombay, India. [throat
29 clearing] Now this ship could not go in to some of the other areas that they
30 wanted to because it was too big. Part of us were put on a British tug of which I
31 was one of them. It was called the Rajula, R-A-J-U-L-A. It was an English, uh,
32 ship, but it had been carrying prisoners for many years, and you can imagine what
33 problems we put up with there.

34
35 Others were put on a train. And we ended up in Karachi, India. This was the 112th
36 Station Hospital Unit. These had all been put together from all over the United
37 States at Camp Stoneman. Our chief nurse was Dorothy [B. Keyes 10:47]. At that
38 time, she was a lieutenant and later on promoted to a captain. She was a first
39 lieutenant. [coughing] Now we were at, um, Karachi, India. We were assigned to
40 the 159th Station Hospital. It later on became the 181st General Hospital. And our
41 chief nurse there was [Doris 11:20] Churchill-[Avery 11:21], a captain. I was
42 there for 1 month assigned. The nurses that had been there had been there for a
43 year without any time off. They were sent out to dispensaries to relieve those
44 people, and some were sent on R&R. At the end of 1 month, several of us were

1 sent on a new assignment to our own hospital, which would be r-, in readiness in
2 the near future. Our chief nurse was Margaret [Dickmeyer 11:57] from Ft.
3 Wayne, Indiana. She later married, and her name was Spahr, S-P-A-H-R. She was
4 our – she was the assistant chief nurse at the hospital, but she was the chief taking
5 us to where we landed in Kolkata, India. We had no idea where we were going,
6 but we were put on this Indian train, which was a cattle car. And I could go on for
7 a long time telling you about that.

8
9 But there were several of us then in Kolkata in which we took over 2 Indian
10 mansions for the administrative and the medical and surgical buildings. I ended
11 up being the surgical supervisor. Angela Flanagan was the medical supervisor.
12 And we had, of course, an operating room supervisor and some other staff
13 members. Initially, being these 2 buildings, it was up to us as soon as the
14 equipment came in to put up the beds, put up the – set up the wards and the
15 operating room, etc., and including making supplies. And we did this until the
16 time came when we were allowed to open up and accept patients. General Xavier
17 [Cheves 13:20] was the base commander in Kolkata, and he was very good to us.
18 He saw that we got fans for where we lived, which were homes. The nurses had
19 their own small nurses' home. The officers lived, uh, in a, another one of the
20 Indian mansions. These were normally tea plantation owners' homes. [throat
21 clearing] We finally opened up the hospital, and I was there for over a year.
22 During this period of time, they built basha huts, which later became the outside
23 buildings. W-, we still maintained the 2 main buildings that we started out with.

24
25 I received orders to report to Delhi, India, under the Southeast Asia Command
26 Headquarters. This was under the command of Lord Louis Mountbatten, and on
27 his staff was General Stillwell and General Merrill whom I later had much to do
28 with. We reported by train from Kolkata to Delhi, India, was met and oriented
29 under General or under, uh, Lord Louis Mountbatten's orientation program. And
30 after this was completed, along with the Women Army Corps, the nurses
31 boarded another troopship, and there were other people that went again on
32 another secret move. We had no idea where we were going. We ended up, uh, on
33 the Island of Salon.

34
35 Jane: [15:29] Anne, I'd just like to ask you, uh, do you, do you know Lord Mountbatten
36 well enough to say something about him?

37
38 Anne Bauer: Yes, I do. He, he was a fabulous man, uh, fabulous, um, uh, officer. His wife, uh,
39 sometimes visited our hospital that we opened up later, but he had a place in
40 Kandy by the Temple of the Tooth, which was a very nice place. He had movies
41 there that we could go to. The nurses had a special invitation that we could go.
42 But that was good because there were 5 of us. We, we – 2 of us had to go
43 together, and we were most of us on duty or on call all that time, so we did not get
44 to go very often. And we, uh, one night we were invited to – I was invited to

1 dinner and sat along – I was on his left. And he asked me where I was from,
2 where my home was, where I got my training, and I told him that I got it in
3 Mishawaka, Indiana, and he says I know that place. Uh, he's – I told him that I
4 worked for an industrial surgeon that, uh, was with the, what we call now the
5 Ball-Band, but at one time, it was a, uh, a rubber company. And he said well I
6 know that real. He said you know, uh, he said I was in on the planning of the
7 [Weasel 16:48], and we had very much conversation about ice cream and
8 [inaudible 16:53] and a lot of other things. And – but when he visited the hospital,
9 he always stopped by to see me.

10
11 And his wife was very, very active with the British Red Cross, and she went
12 around to many of the hospital areas in which he was in command of also. So it
13 was a nice feeling. So, uh, there – we ended up with 5 nurses on the Island of
14 Salon in Kandy, K-A-N-D-Y. Our chief nurse was Bernice [Nelson 17:28] who
15 was a, uh, anesthetist, a nurse anesthetist, and we were assigned to the Queen's
16 Hotel to live until our place was ready in the Peradeniya Gardens, which is royal
17 botanical gardens of Kandy. We were housed in along with British nurses and
18 other, um, members of the staff, uh, secretaries, and uh, just all professional areas
19 and civilians, which were with the, uh, uh, the different security areas and so on.
20 [throat clearing] Now this was a security post in which we could not go on and
21 off, uh, at all. During the time that we were in the hotel, many of our troops
22 became ill out in the, in the gardens where the main headquarters was, out in the
23 troop area of which there were, uh, uh, different, uh, medical people who staffed
24 dispensaries and so on. Then, um, we had, um, some that were put in the British
25 Hospital. Our medical officers did not approve of the way they were being cared
26 for because they were being cared like they were other, um, uh, native people.

27
28 They didn't have medicine glasses, and they didn't – they went along with spoons
29 and went from one to the other and cups from one to another and so on. And this
30 was very bad in a tropical country because there were many diseases that could be
31 transmitted, so they were pushing to find a place to have our own. They set up a
32 tent and our male technicians took care of patients in the tent areas. The officers
33 were taken care of in their, uh, rooms at the King's Hotel, which was called the
34 Suisse Hotel, S-U-I-S-S-E. And we nurses were assigned to them on shifts. We
35 would walk from the Queen's Hotel to the Suisse, which was over a mile, a
36 beautiful walk, however, and would take care of these people as they needed be.
37 Finally, the reason, uh, this was slow in starting is because our hospital had been
38 planned to be built in the botanical gardens, but we couldn't wait that long. So
39 finally the British took over Mount [Inaudible 20:10], which was, uh, a little
40 distance from Kandy, and this had been a, a convent in which they took care of
41 orphans, and the one big main building was a – had been used as a research when
42 they pushed the orphans and the nuns out of Mount [Inaudible 20:31]. So at that
43 time, the research building had been closed, had not been used for a year.

1 We went in and cleaned up the area. Our supplies – we got our supplies and
2 decided that we had just better start setting up as soon as possible, which we did.
3 We had a small hospital, and we became quite active. At that time, we also had
4 the troops coming in from China and different areas if they were close by or on
5 the navy ships coming into [Colombo 21:10] Salon. So we did have quite an
6 assortment of injuries and – well many of our injuries were things like leaches
7 and, um, uh, or terrible bites from insects, and of course the snakes were prevalent
8 there as well, in addition to much dysentery, malaria, Dengue fever, uh,
9 especially, uh, the amoebic dysentery was very prevalent at that time. I remember
10 Lord Louis Mountbatten, uh, had some, uh, diseases and, uh, especially amoebic
11 dysentery, and so he put out an order finally that, uh, we would have to have our
12 dishes and, uh, waters boiled for certain periods of time, which we had had a hard
13 time getting in the – at the hotels previously. So he was very cooperative in
14 anything that he really could accomplish. I remained there in a, uh, head-nurse
15 capacity then until 1945, at which time our theater nurse stated that there would
16 be no nurse in the area over 30 months, so I went home.

17
18 Our theater nurse became Agnes [Mailey 22:41]. She is still alive and lives in
19 Texas, and we enjoyed her very much. I also had her on a future assignment, uh,
20 as a theater nurse. Then my orders came to go home, and I flew home from
21 [Colombo 23:00] Salon and arrived in New York. I had a 30-day leave then at that
22 time, and of course, V-J day had been a short time previous to that, and I was in
23 Salon. Also, at that – during my, my, uh, tenure there, uh, President Roosevelt
24 died. And so there were several things that I can pinpoint to as to what year it was
25 because of that assignment. When I came home, I was reassigned to Fort
26 Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. And at that time I, uh, was assigned to the [Inaudible
27 23:49] Hospital, which was Billings General Hospital, and they were bringing
28 troops back, returnees, and naturally there were many that would come in on the
29 troop trains. They would be, uh, checked out, and as soon as possible, when they
30 were ready, they were reassigned to homes, uh, home hospitals, uh, veterans
31 hospitals that were closer to their home or to a military hospital depending upon
32 their status. If they were discharged from the service or if they, uh, would get
33 further care. We closed up Billings General Hospital and opened up the station
34 hospital at Fort Harrison, which is now the headquarters at Fort Harrison.

35
36 And, again, I was there until 1947, at which time we closed the hospital
37 completely, and I was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to the station hospital there. I
38 was assigned to contagion service, was a head nurse, and I remained there for 5
39 years. During that period of time, I was assigned to a civilian disaster team, and
40 again this was all top secret. All messages were delivered by military police. No
41 one else knew you were. No one else knew where you were going or what your
42 duties would be or otherwise. And I was on, um, a drug trails during this period of
43 time as well. So it was very interesting in along with my assignment. We had
44 many polios during this period of time. So I attended a, uh, a course in Louisville,

1 Kentucky, that was held by the National Orthopedic, uh, Public Health Service to
2 learn more about polio and to care, and we went through all the treatments and so
3 on and so forth, which were s- Sister Kenny's treatments. So we did have a
4 fabulous set up at Fort Knox, I thought in our treatment of patients. I later then
5 was assigned as the head nurse in the clinic area, and again this was a big clinic.
6 Many things were being done. There was research work being done on amoebic
7 dysentery, n-, uh, also known as Amoebiasis.

8
9 So, consequently, I had a very, uh, thorough, uh, training I can say in many
10 things, which also helped me in many other of my assignments. And, um, I was
11 there until 1951, at which time my orders were for Europe. I was assigned to the
12 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt, and then they sent us, of course, to an
13 orientation program in the Berchtesgaden area for a short period of time. And I
14 was head nurse on the communicable disease section. I was there until 1954 when
15 my father became acutely ill, and I came home on emergency leave with only a
16 few more months to go on my 3-year assignment. I came home by plane on
17 emergency leave, but my father had died before I arrived. So after 30 days of
18 leave, my orders came in and assigning me to the dispensary at Fort Benjamin
19 Harrison, Indiana. I reported in, and a short period of time after I arrived, we
20 opened up the station hospital, which is now the headquarters at Fort Benjamin
21 Harrison. I was assigned to the chief nurse for duty at which time, she said Annie,
22 I do not have an opening for s-, for supply for the central services as I have that
23 position filled.

24
25 And she said I see that you've been doing that for a period of time, but she said I
26 drastically need you in the OB Department. We just opened it up, and the, uh,
27 head nurse has been – is on orders for Walter Reed. I need to replace her. She's a
28 fabulous nurse, and in fact, she's from Indiana. Uh, I, uh, her name is Dorothy,
29 uh, I can't remember her n-, her married name now, but Dorothy was a fabulous
30 orientation person to me not knowing anything about OB. But she said I hope you
31 won't mind, and I said oh, I just don't see how I'm going to be able to be the head
32 nurse. I'll be glad to be, be a peon. She said I don't need a peon. I have good staff
33 people, but I need someone to organize and, uh, to keep it in tow, and she said I
34 know you can do it, from your records.

35
36Jane: Anne, that was quite a compliment to you I think.

37
38Anne Bauer: It was...

39
40Jane: Yes.

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42Anne Bauer: ...you know, my – I think, uh, I grew another head size, and, and I said now the
43 only thing I remember about OB, it's been many, many years, is where babies
44 come from. She said well you'll learn in a hurry. And she was right because the,

1 the hall was full of litters with mother's on that were in labor. And we still had a
2 very small department, but they were all coming in. And we did not have cribs for
3 the babies at that time. We were using dresser drawers. And, um, so, and, of
4 course, one of my first duties was I had to have cribs. We couldn't have dresser
5 drawers all over the place. And so our supply officer said impossible until his
6 wife got pregnant and was gonna to have twins, and I guess, you know, it didn't
7 take us long to get cribs as he went to Fort Knox and came back with them. But
8 we did have a very, very nice department. We had wonderful doctors, and she was
9 right, the staff were out of this world. We were there until we moved over to the
10 old Potomac Hospital, which had been renovated for a station hospital. Now this
11 was in 1954, and I remained there as the head nurse of the OB Service, which was
12 the labor/delivery, the ward, the clinic, the nursery, and the premature nursery,
13 and we had at least a hundred babies a month.

14
15 At that time, I received orders for the Nurse Administration Course, the 9027, at
16 Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This is a preparation for supervisors and chief nurses. I
17 was then promoted to a major and received orders for Fitzsimons General
18 Hospital in Denver, Colorado. I reported there after leave to Colonel Alice
19 Gritsavage who was the chief nurse. She gave me many responsible positions
20 while I was there. I was head nurse on the medical intensive care area, relief
21 supervisor on weekends and holidays. I became the permanent evening and later
22 the permanent night supervisor. I had many a-, additional other duties. I was the
23 officer in charge of the Batchelor Officer Quarters. And I wanted to complete my
24 education for a degree, which was very, very easy to do, uh, at the University of
25 Denver in Colorado. So I worked many split hours. I did many other duties in
26 order to attend courses daytime or nights, whatever was feasible for my courses. I
27 rotated at the training nurse. I was an umpire on a disaster team. I was the
28 educational coordinator, nurse methods analyst, and this was all in a training
29 position. I became the troubleshooter. Where there were problem areas, I relieved
30 in those areas as well. This included the TB supervisor, the supervisor on the a-,
31 Neuropsychiatric Service, and this was at the beginning of the milieu therapy in
32 the, in the military. During this period of time, I transferred my credits from the
33 Indiana University to Denver, and I finally received my degree in nursing
34 administration in 1959.

35
36 I then received orders assigning me to the 4th United States of America Security
37 Agency in Arlington, Virginia. This was in 1960, the fall of 1960, at which time I
38 flew from New York by way of Europe to Asmara Eritrea, Ethiopia. I was the
39 chief nurse loaned to the security agency from the army to serve a 1-year tour as
40 chief nurse at the station hospital there. During the coup d'état of Haile Selassie,
41 they extended my time another year. We had the U.S. Aide to, uh, the
42 International Development Group there. We had people from the universities
43 throughout the United States that were assisting the Eritreans. I was very much,
44 um, in communication with the America Consulate. They were a big help to us,

1 and we were a big help to the, the natives there in their dispensaries and in the
2 mission areas. I visited the mission fields with a, a priest that was assigned to us
3 as an auxiliary chapel [inaudible 35:19]. Presently he is assigned in Australia. I
4 still correspond with him. But he made arrangements for me and as many of our
5 people that we could go like on R&R and went by vehicle up in the mission fields
6 through the desert areas and so on. Also during that period of time, we had the
7 Yemen disaster, a huge fire. Now we were only 5 nurses again in Azmiri, and we
8 needed to send a nurse.

9
10 Our commanding officer whose wife was a civilian nurse but had not been
11 practicing during their married period of time, he wanted to take her along. I felt
12 that a military nurse should go. He said no. He didn't see how we could supply
13 one. I said, yes, we will all work 12 or 24 hours if necessary. So I did assign a
14 nurse to attend the medical team to go on this disaster at Yemen. She did a
15 fabulous job. Her name was Anderson. And I don't know of anyone who could
16 have done a better job during the period of time they were there. They assisted in
17 organizing, uh, care. Of course, they had to delouse; they had to deworm; they
18 had to vaccinate and etc., etc., to prevent a further disasters. The rest of my tour of
19 duty, it was a busy one. It was a security agency again. I, of course, I was cleared
20 for top secret was the reason for this assignment. And after 2 years, I received
21 orders to return to the United States and was released from the security agency. I
22 was then assigned to Irwin Army Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas. This is the home
23 of the 1st Infantry Division. It also was the medical support group, uh, the 93rd
24 Evac Hospital assigned there, who were on duty at the Irwin Army Hospital, but
25 these were only certain key people to be trained and to fill positions.

26
27 Upon arrival there, I was informed that I was the assistant chief nurse. And this
28 was under May Donovan, Lieutenant Colonel. Uh, she had just recently, uh, taken
29 the place of the former chief nurse. I also was given a secret orientation that upon
30 a disaster or anything that I would – was assigned as the chief nurse of the 93rd
31 Evac Hospital. I had other additional duties of course. I was, uh, the head nurse at
32 of the o-, Outpatient Department and the Emergency Room area, and at this time,
33 the Cuban crisis arose. We were alerted to pack and be ready to leave at any time
34 for active duty, to activate the 93rd Evac Hospital. We were all ready, all ready to
35 leave. I had turned my keys over the adjutant for my car and my personal
36 belongings, and arrangements had been made to pack and put my things in storage
37 when the Bay of Pigs was signed, and we, we unpacked. Again I assumed my
38 duties as chief nurse or assistant chief nurse rather of the hospital and stayed on as
39 the chief nurse at the 93rd Evac. During this period of time, we had many mock
40 war, um, uh, emergency programs, uh, in which even the community was
41 involved in disasters, and this was very interesting. I also was very active, uh, as
42 a, uh, nurse for, uh, volunteering nurses or trying to get them to, uh, be interested
43 in joining the military. And this was very, very interesting.

1 Uh, in 1964, we had a mock war desert strike in which the 93rd Evacuation
2 Hospital was the backup for the 1st Infantry Division and was assigned to Bouse,
3 Arizona. We had a very interesting period of time out in Arizona – desert, no
4 water. Our trucks had to go miles and miles to get tanks of water. And our, our
5 training for young nurses that were assigned to us during this period of time to fill
6 in our quota for the hospital as well as our technicians, our doctors, and everyone
7 else, eh, we really lived in a terrible time for that assignment. It was the best
8 preparation for Vietnam that we could have ever had. But I was very fortunate to
9 have had my tours of duty in the tropical areas and in India and in, in these areas
10 where I was because this was just a repetition in many ways. I returned after this
11 period to Fort Riley, Kansas, Irwin Army Hospital, and the chief nurse had
12 received orders for Vietnam. I then assumed her duties as the chief nurse of Ir-,
13 Irwin Army Hospital, was just getting my feet on the ground when I was sent to
14 Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, on temporary duty. My duties were an advisory to the
15 post commander and the post surgeon in a nursing capacity. I didn't realize at the
16 time what this, what this was really all about until I arrived there when I
17 discovered that the reserves were going to man the hospital during reserve
18 training for troops, and instead of the regular army personnel as usual.

19
20 This was because of the Vietnam upset and in which time the reserves would take
21 over, r-, uh, regular, uh, hospitals when the military would go to Vietnam or
22 wherever they were assigned to. So I was there for the complete opening and for
23 the, uh, reserves each group of hospitals serving their 2 weeks for on-the-job
24 training as reserves and taking over the hospital. It was very interesting. It was a
25 very rewarding experience. I was assigned – I was at the headquarters with all the
26 headquarter people. It was our responsibility that if the temperature was too high
27 that we were not allowed, uh, if the, uh, [inaudible 43:02] report was such that
28 troops should not be out in the fields. We had to man all the dispensaries
29 throughout Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and be responsible for that. And during that
30 period of time, the post surgeon received orders for Korea, so I was assigned his
31 duties for this temporary period of time until the post – until we closed our duties
32 up for the year. In addition to that, I received a phone call telling me that I was to
33 close the hospital, make an after action report and report back to Ft. Riley,
34 Kansas, within a certain period of time. My 30-day leave was cancelled, and I
35 returned back to Fort Riley finding out that the 93rd Evacuation Hospital was
36 activating, and I would be receiving nurses and, uh, and [inaudible 44:05]
37 professional personnel to be oriented.

38
39 And, uh, we had to go through the complete processing of them for
40 immunizations, seeing that their records were up to date, see if they need any
41 physicals, and we had many that needed dental work and physical problems taken
42 care of. And after this period of time, we were supposedly would each go to our
43 assignment area. We went by plane. We flew out with doughnuts and coffee in the
44 middle of the night and was taken to California. [background speaker] We were

1 taken to California, at which time 2, at least, uh, 2/3 or more of the 93rd
2 Evacuation Group had arrived. We landed by plane at [Binh Thuy 45:05],
3 Vietnam. This was a, a replacement station in a very desolate area. The 1st
4 Infantry Division was there to welcome us. Our equipment had not come in
5 because of the activities. The division brought us tents, cots, put them up for us.
6 They brought in food for us. And this was on Highway 1 in the boonies. In the
7 meantime, this area on Highway 1 had been selected for our future hospital. The
8 rubber plantation had been torn down. The VC had been chased out, and it was
9 cleared to build our hospital. This was called Long Xuyen, Vietnam. We opened
10 up our hospital as a 200-bed hospital and had many, many patients coming in
11 from all areas. The Green Berets were close by us. They were a big help to us.
12 They helped us in many ways.

13
14 And finally, after a period of time, between the injuries and the diseases, we were
15 influxed with no place to go. We double bunked and made it a 500-bed hospital.
16 We still had limited water, and during the first 6 months of operation, we had
17 10,000 patients had come through our 93rd Evac Hospital. The monsoons and the
18 windstorms were terrible. We became a very, uh, operational unit. We had a
19 helicopter pad with their staff. We had an orthopedic t-, uh, team assigned to us, a
20 surgical team, a, uh, neuropsychiatric team, and a dental team had all been
21 included. They also had a medical research lab attached to our area. We sent our
22 cardiac and artificial kidney patients to Saigon, which was the main hospital in a
23 permanent building. We had an organized evacuation plan and a training program,
24 and we flew our patients from the helicopter pad into Saigon to meet the evac
25 planes. We had very good contact. We had, uh, of course, at lot of times this was
26 under mortar fire. We had many alerts. We had a constant training program. And
27 beside our battle casualties, our medical and surgical and tropical diseases were
28 many in number. We did have 1 very, very interesting, uh, disease that I was not
29 familiar with called melioidosis, and we had many allergy and skin problems as
30 well.

31
32 Our medical, uh, we had a, uh, many medical team members of the other units
33 that would join us in what we called the Med-Cap Program. I furnished the
34 nurses. They furnished the doctors and the technicians. And usually a nurse went
35 along on this Med-Cap Program up to the leprosy colony, at which time we had –
36 we made rounds, had to change dressings, examine patients, etc., and we went to
37 several different areas besides that. I was then going to, uh, remain in Vietnam
38 after my first year. I had been, uh, accepted to stay another year. Then I received
39 word from Washington that they needed to cancel my orders to send me to
40 Seattle, Washington. At that time, they had someone that could come over and
41 replace me as the head nurse of my – but they needed someone to replace, uh, an
42 individual at Madigan General Hospital in Tacoma. I came home on 30 days
43 leave. I reported to Madigan General Hospital in November of 1966. I was the
44 assistant chief nurse for a year and then became the chief nurse when [Althea

50:17] Williams was assigned the theater nurse at Vietnam. We went from 350 patients in 1966 to a census of 1,300 patients in a short period of time. There were 40 medical units on this post. We had many training courses for nurse anesthesia, operating room nurses program. Reserves came in for training. We had on-the-job training for air force reserves. We had an operating room course for nurses.

And there were just many others, too many to mention. I had a large staff of 115 military and civilian nurses, 300 nonprofessionals at this time. I was planning on retiring, had my papers ready to sign and had my physical taken when the chief of the Army Nurse Corps called and asked if I would remain in 2 more years. She wanted to send me to another assignment. I went to Munson Army Hospital at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as the chief nurse. This is the home of the Command and General Staff College. There are 1,300 top-level officers assigned there for each program. We had 100 foreign officers from 70 different coun-, uh, countries and in which many of them brought their families along. We had an English training program on the post for the dependents. And I had some additional duties while there as well. I served on the general's staff and was a representative for many functions. We continued many training programs here also. I was on the Board of Governors of the bachelor officers quarters, and while I was there, I was president of the bowling team. I had been a b-, a bowler in civilian life. And I was also assigned on the [feasibility 52:56] of a new hospital. We had many VIPs visit us during these period of times, and it was very enjoyable.

On the 31st of August 1970, I retired with over 28 years of active duty as a army nurse in the regular army. I was credited for 30 years. After my retirement, I returned to Indiana, and I have my home in Winamac. During this period of time, I have, until my health did not permit it, I was quite active in the Mental Health Association in Indiana, especially in our area. We have a 4 county comprehensive mental health center in which we formed. I was on this during the building and until it was all 4 counties were represented in their own areas, and we now have one in Winamac, Indiana. At that time, due to physical reasons, I had – was forced to resign from this duty as well. And that is my story as an army nurse.

[54:23] Anne, would you mind going back and telling us a little bit about, uh, Westmoreland? I think you mentioned his name. And also General Deane.

Oh, yes. These are people that I am very, very fond of. I served with them. Uh, when I reported to Fort Benjamin Harrison, uh, in 1945, General Deane was assigned to the military post as commanding general of the post and was here during the building of the finance center, and, uh, I left, of course, in 1947, and I didn't see him again until I retired from the army. When I retired from the army and I attended my first retired officers, uh, meeting here at Fort Harrison, as I walked in, who stood up and said here comes the best chief nurse in the Army Nurse Corps. She had the 93rd Evacuation Hospital in Vietnam when I was the

1 theater commander. And along with him stood up General Steger. He was the
2 commanding general of the Pacific area during this Vietnam period. And he said I
3 have to vouch for that. I visited her unit many times, and it was a very good
4 hospital.

5
6 Well while I was in Vietnam, the command-, commander of Vietnam was General
7 Westmoreland. He was there during my entire stay. I attended meeting and
8 functions under him. And he visited his men as often as he could in all of the
9 hospitals. He was very much interested in the best care and the best health of all
10 of the troops. And I am hoping that I will get to see him at a meeting that the
11 Indiana Vietnam Veterans are having in Kokomo, Indiana, in the very near future
12 in which he is going to be the speaker. And at this meeting, they are promoting
13 this meeting for the women of the Vietnam veterans, and they too are hoping – I
14 was not aware of this organization until just recently and wrote in to inquire about
15 it, and they are begging me to attend this meeting.

16
17 Jane: This about concludes our tape of Anne Bauer. There is one error in dates, and it
18 happened about 1 minute ago where Anne says that she reported to Fort Harrison
19 in 1947 – 1945, sorry. Actually, she reported in 1954, and she was in – at Fort
20 Harrison until 1956 and then, of course, she saw General Deane again after she
21 retired in 1970. This has been a pleasure to record this by Lieutenant Commander
22 Anne Bauer. It was recorded at Fort Harrison on June 20, 1985. I am Jane [Fore
23 57:43], and I was in Special Services in Japan and Europe. Knowing people like
24 Anne is one of the reasons why membership in WOSL is so rewarding. Over and
25 out.

26
27
28/lo