

**Interview of Anna Spillman Atteberry
on her service in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during WWII**

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5 Ruth Stewart: [0:02] This interview for the, uh, Veterans History Project is being done
6 on Anna Spillman...

7
8 Anna Atteberry: Atteberry.

9
10 Ruth Stewart: [0:12] Atteberry [laughter] on April the 2nd, 2007. Interviewers are Ruth
11 Stewart and Trish Martin. This is done in San Antonio, Texas.

12
13 Ann, tell us, as we start out, about your early life, where you were born,
14 what your life was like as a girl growing up.

15
16 Anna Atteberry: I was born in, uh, West [inaudible 0:39] Parish, Louisiana. I lived in the
17 country and I was the oldest of 6 children. Uh, I walked to school the first
18 3 years, over a mile and a half, on muddy roads and I had to cross 2
19 streams to get to school. Well, when I finally got to the 5th grade, we were
20 lucky, we got a school bus that went into town. See, I'm a child of the
21 Depression. We didn't have a lot, believe me. And, uh, I went through –
22 our school was small, really. When I graduated from high school, I think
23 there was all of about 20 students. Our parents, uh, worked hard but they
24 didn't have a lot of money back in the '30s and when I finished high
25 school, there were not very many things open to me. My family were not
26 able to send me to college because there were 5 children behind me to be
27 fed. Um, I had about 2 choices: I could, uh, stay with relatives in the city
28 and go to business college or I could go into nurse's training. And you
29 know, when you stop and think how much education costs these days, my
30 parents borrowed \$50 from the bank to pay my tuition into nursing school.
31 They struggled to give me \$1 a month allowance. And that had had to buy
32 my toothpaste and all of the things that I had. And now, when I think of
33 how we throw money [laughter] away, I have more now...

34
35 Ruth Stewart: [2:21] Mm-hm.

36
37 Anna Atteberry: ...and when I finished nurse's training, I guess it was just before I
38 finished, was Pearl Harbor. I was working nights and I turned on my little
39 radio and I couldn't understand why all I was getting was all this static
40 stuff. And, uh, I walked out in the hall and one of the girls said something
41 about, "Do you know that they bombed Pearl Harbor today?" and I
42 remember saying, "Where is Pearl Harbor?" I mean, I really didn't know.
43 Then I began to really know 'cause I had a brother there at the time, in the
44 navy, but his ship wasn't hit. Um, and about that time, I guess everybody

1 may think about going into the service. Everywhere you looked, men were
2 in uniform. Everybody was joining the military, some branch of it. So,
3 when I finished nurse's training and passed state board, Myrtle Carpenter
4 and I both went in the army together. And we had our choices – uh, we
5 looked at it and we picked the one that was the farthest from home, El
6 Paso, Texas, Fort Bliss.
7
8 Ruth Stewart: [3:32] Why did you choose the army?
9
10 Anna Atteberry: Uh, my father had been in the army and, uh, I had a brother that was
11 already in the navy because he was only 13 months younger than I was
12 and he, there was no money for him to go to college so he went in the
13 navy. And then I had another brother who was in the marine corps, well,
14 he had run away from home when he was 16 and had joined the marine
15 corps right after the one went in the navy. So I decided to go in the army
16 and, uh, this was really something. When we got to El Paso, there was a
17 raging sandstorm. Somebody met us at the train and we were taken to the
18 chief nurse's office and instead of being a shy kid and keeping my mouth
19 shut, I knew you could get transfers, you know, I'd heard about people
20 transfers. My second thing to her was, "When can I get a transfer?"
21 [laughter] "I want to leave this place!" [inaudible 4:28] I later knew her
22 socially and she always laughed about that.
23
24 Ruth Stewart: [4:33] [laughter]
25
26 Anna Atteberry: [laughter] Anyway, I got assigned there and we, they had 2 places then,
27 they had [Olway and Beaumont 4:41], which was permanent. But they had
28 opened this cantonment-type hospital that had these wooden ramps and
29 wooden bi-, shoots off of'm and that was a Station Hospital at Fort Bliss.
30 And the nicest thing, across the fence from the hospital was Biggs Air
31 Force Base. They had a nice bunch of young officers over there and, so we
32 enjoyed that, too. So, I began to think about going overseas so I signed up
33 for a hospital ship and mon-, several months went by and I didn't hear
34 anything on it. Then, all of a sudden, 10 of us were sent to Fort Sam
35 Houston. The 56th Evacuation Hospital, the Baylor Unit of Dallas, didn't
36 have enough nurses to, they had to have 52 nurses in this hospital group,
37 the 56th Evac. They sent 10 of us from Fort Bliss, 10 of us from Camp
38 Chaffee, Arkansas, and 3 from Fort Lee, Virgin-, uh, Louisiana to
39 complete the 56th Evac. Well, they were all nice but you've got to
40 remember, when we first went over, those were Baylor doctors and those
41 were Baylor nurses. They had, they were in charge of the operating room,
42 the mission room, and what have ya. But it was interesting.
43
44 Ruth Stewart: [6:15] Were they arrogant about it?

1
2 Anna Atteberry: No, I guess at the time, you know, we were young, you know you're
3 young at 22, 23 years old and you're thinking, "Ha! If you're not a Baylor
4 graduate," [laughter] "you're never gonna get anywhere here!" But, when
5 we left, that's where we learned to drill, at Fort Sam Houston and, you
6 know, you would be surprised, we poor girls – your left from your right,
7 you hear those, we marched on that open field out there. They taught us
8 how to march. Then we went on a train and it was a long train ride to New
9 York. It must have taken us, I know, at least 10 days and we arrived in the
10 middle of the night up in New York. It was north of New York City, I'm
11 trying to remember the name of the place.
12
13 Cold, it was freezing cold and that's when we really found out what it was
14 like to rough it. They gave us 2 old wool blankets. These buildings were
15 temporary, you could see the cracks. Even though it's 4:00 in the morning,
16 you could see daylight from the lights in the place. And it was just this
17 spring on this metal bed so I put the blanket down there and [laughter] we
18 2 were together still, that we'd been. We decided to pool 2 blankets under
19 us and we slept together on the cot and put the 2 wool blankets on top of
20 us. I guess we stayed there about 10 days 'til they gave us, checked all of
21 our immunization and everything and then we got on this ship. It was a
22 luxury liner that had been used in the Pacific between San Francisco and
23 Hawaii but it was wall-to-wall people on there. We were in a room that
24 would have been, uh, a single room, maybe a couple, you know, during
25 peace time. There were 16 of us in there. We were stacked like that but,
26 you know, we were, were lucky. The men in the ballroom, that whole
27 thing was a long canvas so they got to [laughter] go like this to get to
28 where they laid down.
29
30 Ruth Stewart: [8:23] And was this a hospital shit or transport?
31
32 Anna Atteberry: No, this was a transport.
33
34 Ruth Stewart: [8:25] Transport.
35
36 Anna Atteberry: This, uh, Tuskegee Aviators, you know, from Alabama, the black, uh
37 pilots?
38
39 Ruth Stewart: [8:33] Mm-hm.
40
41 Anna Atteberry: They were also on that ship. And, uh, we traveled alone. We didn't do
42 anything. We didn't do any work or anything like that. There was barely
43 room to move. And we went into Casablanca. And that's where we first
44 started working. It wasn't very hard there 'cause, you know, the troops

1 had moved on ahead and, uh, then we started moving and as the battles
2 would move on, we would set up a hospital. We took care of casualties.
3 We took care of the American casualties, British casualties, any allied
4 casualties. And, um, finally we ended up in Bizerte, Africa, which was in
5 Tunisia and, uh, we had a hospital there – it was an old French barracks
6 and I was in the operating room there. And so a lot of our patients then,
7 uh, were not really casualties until just before the invasion of Sicily in
8 Italy and the Germans started flying over at night and they would bomb
9 the harbor. Well, then we would get a lot of patients then and that was my
10 first chance where I found out you just didn't work in the daytime; we
11 worked until we took care of all the casualties, which could be 24 hours in
12 the operating room. Later on, we modified that 'cause we weren't holding
13 up very well. And then, after they finally secured Sicily and everything,
14 we went in on the invasion of Italy and we landed, uh, at Salerno and it
15 was too shallow to get in where we landed so they let us off in the water.
16 And, of course, you know you've got a full pack on and we didn't have
17 nice uniforms then because, see, they didn't know what to send nurses
18 over with then and we bought men's pants and men's stuff [laughter] and
19 it was all big on you. And the water was just weighing me down! I'll never
20 forget, I fell on my face. I'm in the water and some sergeant comes by and
21 just stands me up. [laughter]

22
23 And, uh, we set up a hospital, I guess, there, it was north of Naples and,
24 uh, we'd move with the troops. Our hospitals were not in buildings. We
25 were in tents. And, uh, we ended up that winter on the Cascina front.

26
27 Ruth Stewart: [11:09] Just before we go on, tell us about setting up a hospital. You say,
28 these, you would follow the invasion as it moved on...

29
30 Anna Atteberry: Mm-hm.

31
32 Ruth Stewart: [11:19]...and you would set up, you nurses and doctors would set up a
33 hospital [coughing] in a tent...

34
35 Anna Atteberry: Right.

36
37 Ruth Stewart: [11:25] ...you would put up a tent. Go on, tell us a little bit about that.

38
39 Anna Atteberry: Well, the hospital was all tents. We weren't in buildings there. And, of
40 course, we had men who would put the tents up. Like, the operating room,
41 we had 1 large tent, 1 long tent, and then we had a second tent where all of
42 our supplies were put together and everything. Uh, where we lived were
43 called wall tents, 2 people would occupy them. Now, the men had larger
44 tents where more men were but the officers and nurses were in 2 wall

1 tents. And out, we were on dirt floor. We did not have flooring. We were
2 on the ground. But we still managed to keep everything sterile. We had
3 autoclaves, you know, we had a motor out there, they had set up a motor
4 and we had an autoclave there where we'd sterilize everything. And, uh, I
5 think right now in civilian hospitals, you probably have more infections
6 than we did. And we were an Evacuation Hospital so many of our
7 surgeries were completed back at Station or General Hospitals. Like, on
8 amputations, we did guillotines. The repairs and the making of the flaps
9 and everything were done back at Stations, Generals – see, we had no
10 helicopters then.

11
12 Ruth Stewart: [12:49] Would they go on by train, or trucks?

13
14 Anna Atteberry: They'd go by sometimes by train but most of the time by ambulances or
15 trucks if they could sit up. And, uh, sometimes from the General
16 Hospitals, they would wait for hospital ships or else, I think they did
17 transports, some air transports. And, uh, I guess we stayed on that. That
18 was horrible, that Cascina front. The Germans were up on the, in the
19 monastery we stayed there the whole winter and it was thick, black mud.
20 And they'd had to make, uh, packed dirt to where we had pathways,
21 'cause you'd step out in that stuff and you'd go up to your knees in it, this
22 black mud. And cold and wet. [laughter] It was just very cold and wet.
23 And we got casualties because, see, they were trying to take that Cascina
24 hill from the Germans and so there were casualties. We had casualties all
25 winter. Of course, uh, when the operating room would slow down, then
26 we'd go out, we'd, some of us would have to go out on the wards because
27 we had a lot of, uh, patients with pneumonia and colds and that sort of
28 stuff. Well, then we were pulled back and went to Anzio. And we sailed,
29 we went all the way back to Naples and we sailed out of there.

30
31 Ruth Stewart: [14:08] When was that, then?

32
33 Anna Atteberry: That was in 1943, I guess, I don't know, '44. '44, I guess we were in
34 Anzio. I forgot the dates. Anyway, we spent 78 days on Anzio. Uh, we set
35 up, our, all the hospitals were together. The 90-, the 56th Evac, the 93rd
36 Evac, the 95th Evac, the 16th Field was right behind us. And, uh, there, the
37 Germans were up on the mountain and they had those big ol' guns they
38 would pull out and they would shoot. When you'd hear'm go boom, you'd
39 listen for the whistle and, if you heard the whistle, you knew it was going
40 to the harbor. If you didn't hear the whistle, you'd [laughter] feel like
41 ducking because they would drop shells in our hospital. We had people
42 that were killed. We had, they also bombed our hospitals. They, they
43 knocked out the 95th in the broad daylight one afternoon at 3:00. And, you
44 know, you would be scrubbed up in surgery and, uh, even if they weren't

1 bombing you, if our, if we were shelling these planes, all this flack would
2 fall. You'd be in the operating room and these big ol' metal flack would
3 come through the canvas. And, you know, you couldn't run off or
4 anything. I mean, you had to stay in there. But, uh, it, I guess now when I
5 look back on it, it was almost primitive medicine but, yet, it was very good
6 surgery we did. And we gave the patients very good care.
7
8 Ruth Stewart: [15:49] Mm-hm.
9
10 Anna Atteberry: You know, even out on the wards. My friends who worked on the medical,
11 in the medical tents, the patients all got their medications on time and, I
12 thi-, I thought we did pretty good. Then, after we came back from Anzio,
13 somebody, we left everything. When a new hospital came in and replaced
14 us, we had to leave all of our equipment behind. We have to leave all of
15 our setup. And we came back to Italy and we took over all of their
16 equipment and what they had left behind.
17
18 Ruth Stewart: [16:26] Why was this uh, uh followed up? I mean, was the next hospital
19 that came in to follow you or the next group to take over, were they a
20 different kind of care?
21
22 Anna Atteberry: No.
23
24 Ruth Stewart: [16:41] Or just to move them or give you some relief, or...
25
26 Anna Atteberry: No, they decided that we all were getting pretty battle-weary and they
27 replaced us. And we went, and then they had to push through to Rome.
28 And, uh, that moved pretty fast. And we were in a building. We set up in a
29 building, believe it or not, in Rome. It might have been bombed out in the
30 middle and we had to [laughter] go around but we actually were inside.
31 We had a hospital inside of a building. That was a treat! And I stayed with
32 the 56th then until they were south of, uh, Rome, I mean, south of
33 [inaudible 17:25] and then I came all the way back. I was transferred out
34 of the unit with another girl. She, she was an anesthetist and we went to
35 France with the 10th Field. And the 10th Field worked in, uh, they worked
36 different than the Evac Hospital. There was like 6 of us and 3 doctors and
37 corpsmen. We were divided into 3 different groups. Uh, the chief nurse
38 and the commander, I never saw them but about twice, they were way
39 back behind us somewhere in the headquarters. And, with the Field
40 Hospital, you took care of the casualties and, if they were transportable,
41 you sent them on back. If your patients, the front, they moved fast in
42 southern France. Uh, if you had a patient that was non-transportable, they
43 left a nurse, a doctor, 2 corpsmen, and a truck driver behind with the, with
44 the patients. Either they passed on and you notified grave registration to

1 pick'm up or they were finally able to transport'm, then we would catch
2 up with the group we were with again.
3
4 Ruth Stewart: [18:44] How, how would you travel, then? You had a truck?
5
6 Anna Atteberry: We would travel in that truck.
7
8 Ruth Stewart: [18:47] You had a truck.
9
10 Anna Atteberry: See, we stayed all in this one big tent.
11
12 Ruth Stewart: [18:50] And the truck driver was your transport methodology?
13
14 Anna Atteberry: Mm-hm. And then we'd catch up with the, with the, our unit again but I
15 didn't, our, our surgery there and our care there was a lot different than
16 56th because it was strictly taking care of patients that were really bad, and
17 most of those died. Now, you got a helicopter to pick'm up. You know,
18 you don't have – I don't think they do that anymore. They got, you, you
19 can get hit in Iraq right now and you can be at Brooks General, what, in 48
20 hours? Or 72 hours? That's the reason from Vietnam you have so many
21 double and triple amputees that you saw through the years. Because they
22 could get, uh, hurt in Vietnam and they could be out here at Brooks
23 General in 48 hours. 'Cause I know when my husband used to go to the
24 pool for physical ed, out at that warm pool, there were a lot of the Vietnam
25 fellows out there, amputees, in the pool and that's the reason so many
26 of'm lived. World War II, many of'm didn't live because they could not
27 be evacuated by the States as quickly. You know, to get the care they get
28 now. I don't know if sometimes when you see the conditions some of'm
29 were in, I don't know whether [inaudible 20:17] be saying that [inaudible
30 20:18.
31
32 I left the 10th Field when I became ill and I came back to the States as a
33 patient. And once I got off the patient status, I went to a General Hospital
34 in the United States at McKinney, Texas, Ashburn General. And I saw
35 patients there that had been there for many years from World War II, I
36 mean, they were, they had, uh, been amputees some of'm. They were still
37 patients there. Some of'm had been hurt real bad. I had a ward there. I
38 didn't work in the operating room. And I had a tendency to spoil my
39 patients, especially the ones who had been, you know, hurt overseas
40 during the war. I especially remembered one person – I've often wondered
41 how he made it. Uh, he was a Mexican. His name was [Torres 21:17] and
42 he had been hurt in the South Pacific. He was a master sergeant. He had to
43 be good to have been a master sergeant then. And he was, had been badly
44 injured and he was very crippled. His leg was real short. He'd get bouts of

1 malaria and I think some of the – he'd been around Ashburn a long time
2 and they had kind of classified him as a bad boy. And they couldn't
3 understand why I spoiled him and I didn't have any trouble with him.
4 Well, I just, I think I understood him. I really did, I understood him. I
5 knew why he did some of the things he did and, um, he didn't, sometimes
6 he didn't want to get up in the morning. Well, he always made up his own
7 bed so I didn't insist that he get out of the bed in the morning. And I had a
8 young, uh, female – they called'm WACs – she goes over there and rolls
9 his bed up as high as she could roll it up and, all of a sudden, he throws
10 something and it hits her. Well, my goodness, she's going to get him court
11 martialed, you know? I said, "Well, I told you to leave him alone!" and
12 they came down and asked for a statement from me and I guess I kind of
13 fibbed. I said I didn't see anything sail and hit her. I just couldn't see
14 having this man ruined. I mean, he'd been a patient there for, what? They
15 said he'd been there 4 years and he had been in the military for about over,
16 I guess, 15 or 16 years. He needed that retirement. I just could not see him
17 being ruined. I just couldn't.
18
19 Ruth Stewart: [23:01] Now, I'm not understanding, I thought you said you went back
20 there as a patient.
21
22 Anna Atteberry: Oh, no, I came back to Fitzsimmons as a patient.
23
24 Ruth Stewart: [23:09] Now, what's the order of that? Were you at Fitzsimmons after?
25
26 Anna Atteberry: When I left, when I left overseas, I came back as a patient. I was on a
27 hospital train coming down through France. I was on a hospital ship and I
28 was on a hospital train all the way across the United States to Brook-, to
29 Fitzsimmons General Hospital.
30
31 Ruth Stewart: [23:28] That was before McKinney?
32
33 Anna Atteberry: That was before McKinney.
34
35 Ruth Stewart: [23:31] Okay, I got all that wrong then.
36
37 Anna Atteberry: You see, I don't, I, guess I, I lapsed out of it when I was a patient
38 (inaudible 23:40] York City, the Army Nurse Corps had set up a hospital
39 on 5th Avenue in a building, you know, like it had, you know, the Air
40 Evac, you had a Station Hospital, and all these people would come
41 through and live there, you know, we had all these nurses here, we'd point
42 out the stuff. And I was there. They had triplets who were in the army, the
43 only triplets in the Army Nurse Corps. Their last name was [Shapleer
44 24:04], I think. I lost contact with'm. And they were there, of course.

1 [laughter] And there were 2 that had been POWs, um, in the Philippines
2 and they were there, too. We were all, you know, shoring around. Got
3 good tickets to all the good shows and stuff, you know, they'd give us...
4

5Ruth Stewart: [24:27] You mentioned that you had to go to New York in relation to the
6 Avon Award. Tell us a little bit about that background on that Avon
7 Award.
8

9Anna Atteberry: On the Avon Award? I got the Avon Award in Dallas, Texas at the Cotton
10 Bowl. That's where they came and presented it to me. And, um, they had a
11 banquet at the Adolphus and the mayor of Dallas crowned me with the
12 Stetson, only I never got the Stetson. [laughter] Somebody in Texas gave
13 me the belt, had the belt, the boots, which I never got. [laughter] I didn't
14 pursue it but I never did get them. And, uh, then, while I was in New York
15 with this, with the military hospital displayed there on 5th Avenue, um, the
16 Avon people also, uh, took me to places like the Starck Club and, uh, to
17 some of the other places for dinner, Toots Shor's for lunch and that kind
18 of, you know, they were getting their publicity out of it, too. I don't mean
19 to sound [laughter], but it's true, isn't it? [laughter] I got flattered.
20 [laughter] And, uh, then the last thing, I guess the last time I had to go to
21 New York in the military from Ashburn General, this was the last, uh, they
22 used to have a radio show called We the People, and I got sent there for
23 We th-, Major Edith Ames met me there at the train, 'cause she had
24 arranged it all, 'cause she was in the Surgeon's office in, uh, Washington,
25 D.C., and I was on We the People and there was a lieutenant, he had
26 something to get done and, uh, Tyrone [Powers' 26:21] wife, Annabella,
27 was on the program, too, you know. They always had to have a celebrity.
28 And, uh...
29

30Ruth Stewart: [26:27] But you were a celebrity!
31

32Anna Atteberry: [laughter] I didn't feel like one. And, you know, and then, um, I had to go
33 another place while I was there. Uh, I can't even remember the
34 playwright's name. He had to question you. Helen Hayes had a show
35 where she would, they would, uh, have a, a, a show each week on that. But
36 he didn't choose mine because he was very impatient with me. I, I think he
37 wanted, uh, blood and gore and I [laughter] just wasn't about to do that,
38 you know?
39

40Ruth Stewart: [27:04] Mm-hm.
41

42Anna Atteberry: He wanted to know what it felt like to see somebody's arm or leg
43 amputated. What do you do? Do you throw it in a bucket?
44

1 Ruth Stewart: [27:12] Mm.
2

3 Anna Atteberry: And, you know, I just, I wasn't a good subject. I wasn't a good subject.
4 I...
5

6 Ruth Stewart: [27:18] I can understand that.
7

8 Anna Atteberry: I, I just couldn't.
9

10 Ruth Stewart: [27:20] Now, the Avon Award, you said you had no idea how you were
11 nominated for that.
12

13 Anna Atteberry: I have no idea to this day. They say in this book they've got a lot of'm in
14 there that got, they all got bonds. I got \$1000 bond – that was a big deal
15 then! But, you see, here's some more nurse, here's some more women.
16 They all got, they, they got \$100 bonds.
17

18 Ruth Stewart: [27:44] Were they Avon Awards or a different award?
19

20 Anna Atteberry: They got Avon Awards but they didn't get, they didn't get the [Plum
21 27:49]. I got the [Plum 27:50]. [laughter]
22

23 Ruth Stewart: [27:51] Oh, okay. Okay.
24

25 Patricia Martin: [27:54] This explains it.
26

27 Ruth Stewart: [27:57] I can't [inaudible 27:57].
28

29 Anna Atteberry: I don't know, they had a, uh, I think they named [Fannie Hurst and John
30 Bows 28:01], they had a committee that selected me out of this group. I
31 have no idea how I ever got placed with this – to this day, I do not know.
32 When I asked the Avon people, you know, it was like this, I really don't
33 know whether they saw my picture in the paper or what they saw.
34

35 Ruth Stewart: [28:28] Well, thank you very much for all this interesting information that
36 you've provided.
37

38 Anna Atteberry: It's hard to remember back on some of this stuff, you know?
39

40 Ruth Stewart: [28:34] I think you've, you have a remarkable memory.
41

42 Anna Atteberry: I don't...
43

44 Ruth Stewart: [28:37] Since you l-,

1
2 Anna Atteberry: It's not easy to talk about this, you know? I don't like to talk about myself.
3 Somebody told me once, who was it? I was with so-, oh, it was Gary
4 Cooper one time on some [inaudible 28:49] drive thing there. He said,
5 "Fame is fleeting. Hang on it while you can." And I thought, "I don't want
6 any fame!" [laughter] "I just want to be my plain ol' self!" [laughter]
7
8 See, this was taken when I came, they dressed me before I got off the
9 hospital ship, 'cause, see, I was a patient, and photographers came and
10 took pictures of all we people that were coming in on the hospital ship.
11 There were 5 – let's see, there was the WAC who'd been hurt real bad, it
12 was me, it was a pregnant USO worker, and it was a gold brick, a
13 corporal. [laughter] And they had me dressed – I didn't even have a cap or
14 anything and they took this picture. And I've often wondered if this
15 appeared in a paper or something and if Avon, if this is how they got it. I
16 really don't know. 'Cause I sent my dad the picture, I got the picture.
17
18 Ruth Stewart: [29:45] Mm-hm.
19
20 Anna Atteberry: But my mother wasn't impressed with all this stuff, you know; she, 'cause
21 she had 3 children in the military. She wasn't impressed!
22
23 Ruth Stewart: [29:54] Did, did your time in your work, your time in the military, and
24 your work with patients in the military, and living with people in some of
25 these cultures – did that make any kind of a difference in your life? That it
26 carried on into your life from there on?
27
28 Anna Atteberry: No. See, in Italy, I knew the Italians but we weren't in close contact
29 with'm. You know, really, we weren't, uh, they were very, they, they were
30 poor. I guess, uh, Mussolini, you know, had, had not been very kind to
31 some of'm. Of course, they all hated Mussolini, when we come along,
32 they all hated Mussolini. And in southern France, this is what I never
33 could understand, in southern France, they had all these able-bodied men
34 running around. Here we are fighting their war and we have all these able-
35 bodied men – they weren't in the French Army. I know, when I was in the
36 10th Field, I hadn't been paid in a long time and, you know, we used to get
37 these rations where they'd have a little coffee and cigarettes and all that
38 stuff in there. And this friend and I, we didn't have any money. There was
39 a lot of perfume to be bought around Grenoble. And I said, "You know,
40 we've got to have some money," and she [laughter] said, "Well, where are
41 we gonna get it from?" and I said, "I don't know!" I said, let's, we put it
42 all in a, a sack there and went into the barbershop, in this men's
43 barbershop, I said, "Anybody want coffee? Cigarettes?" All these men
44 popped out, you know, you only had about 4 cigarettes in each one of

1 these little packs? We sold'm for francs and we had some money to buy
2 some perfume! [laughter]
3
4 I think this was my ID thing, I guess, when I went, when I came in the
5 military. The war department the other day. Well, I, you know, it's really
6 hard to really talk about any of this. I, I ju-, you kn-, uh, when I stop and
7 think when I went overseas, there were 52 nurses and I only know of 4 of
8 us that are still living. I was next to the youngest. The youngest one lives
9 up here at Wagoner, Oklahoma. She retired from the VA. She went to
10 Korea. She stayed in the army a while. The one I finished school with, she
11 is 89 years old. She moved back to Louisiana, she and her husband. They
12 lived in Arizona a long time. And the other one, the last I heard, she lived
13 up in Minnesota somewhere. She went to anesthesia school a-, afterward.
14 She got married and she had 4 children. And the rest of'm have passed on.
15 I mean, it's just like this picture that I showed you in this book here, where
16 we were all sitting in a group. We were on that British ammunition ship.
17 Every last one of'm are dead except me.
18
19 Ruth Stewart: [32:48] Have you been involved in any military or veterans' organizations
20 since you've, uh, since [inaudible 32:55]?
21
22 Anna Atteberry: Only the WOSL. I used to go all the time to WOSL.
23
24 Ruth Stewart: [32:55] WOSL.
25
26 Anna Atteberry: One of my good friends, Madge Teague, belonged there and she, she was
27 in the 56th with me. Now, she retired from the army and she died some
28 years ago. And I guess after I moved over here and Madge died, I quit
29 going to WOSL. 'Cause we used to always meet together.
30
31 Ruth Stewart: [33:16] Mm-hm.
32
33 Anna Atteberry: And she's buried out at Fort Sam. But now, she did, she did retire from the
34 army.
35
36 Ruth Stewart: [33:24] Well, we'll wind up this tape now but we really do appreciate all
37 the, that you have gone ahead and discussed [inaudible 33:32].
38
39 Anna Atteberry: Now where does...
40
41
42/ab