

# Navy Nurse Corps



Below: Dramatically rescued after 37 months as prisoners of the Japs, these Navy Nurses were awarded the Bronze Star. Photographed with Admiral

Thomas C. Kincaid, USN, they are wearing uniforms made in prison from ripped-up dungarees. During their imprisonment they worked ceaselessly to care for their fellow internees.

**M**ONTHS before the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, American dependents of servicemen, along with other women nationals, were evacuated from most of the Pacific Islands. Not so the Navy Nurses. They stayed on at their stations to care for the men in blue and, when the Japs struck, they were on duty at Pearl Harbor, Kaneohe Bay, the Philippines, Guam and aboard the *U. S. Solace*.

That was typical of the steadfast manner in which Navy Nurses adhered to duty throughout the war, forsaking personal comfort and safety to bring the benefits of their skills to the sick and wounded.

The Regular Corps, established in 1908 as an integral part of the Navy, was assisted throughout the war by thousands of Reserve Nurses. On July 31, 1945, the grand total of nurses on duty was 11,021, serving at 244 stations in the U.S.A., fifty-two outside of the country, and on twelve hospital ships.

A major duty of women enrolled as Navy Nurses has been to train thousands of young men of the Navy as Hospital Corpsmen. Navy hospital apprentices and pharmacist's mates, usually totally untrained before enlistment, had to be taught to perform nursing duty on combat ships.

Outside of their rôle as teachers, Navy Nurses gave expert care to the wounded and ill. To assist Naval medical officers in carrying out complex modern surgery, chemotherapy and medical procedures, nurses with advanced training and experience in such specialties as surgery, orthopedics, anesthesia, contagion, dietetics and physiotherapy were provided.

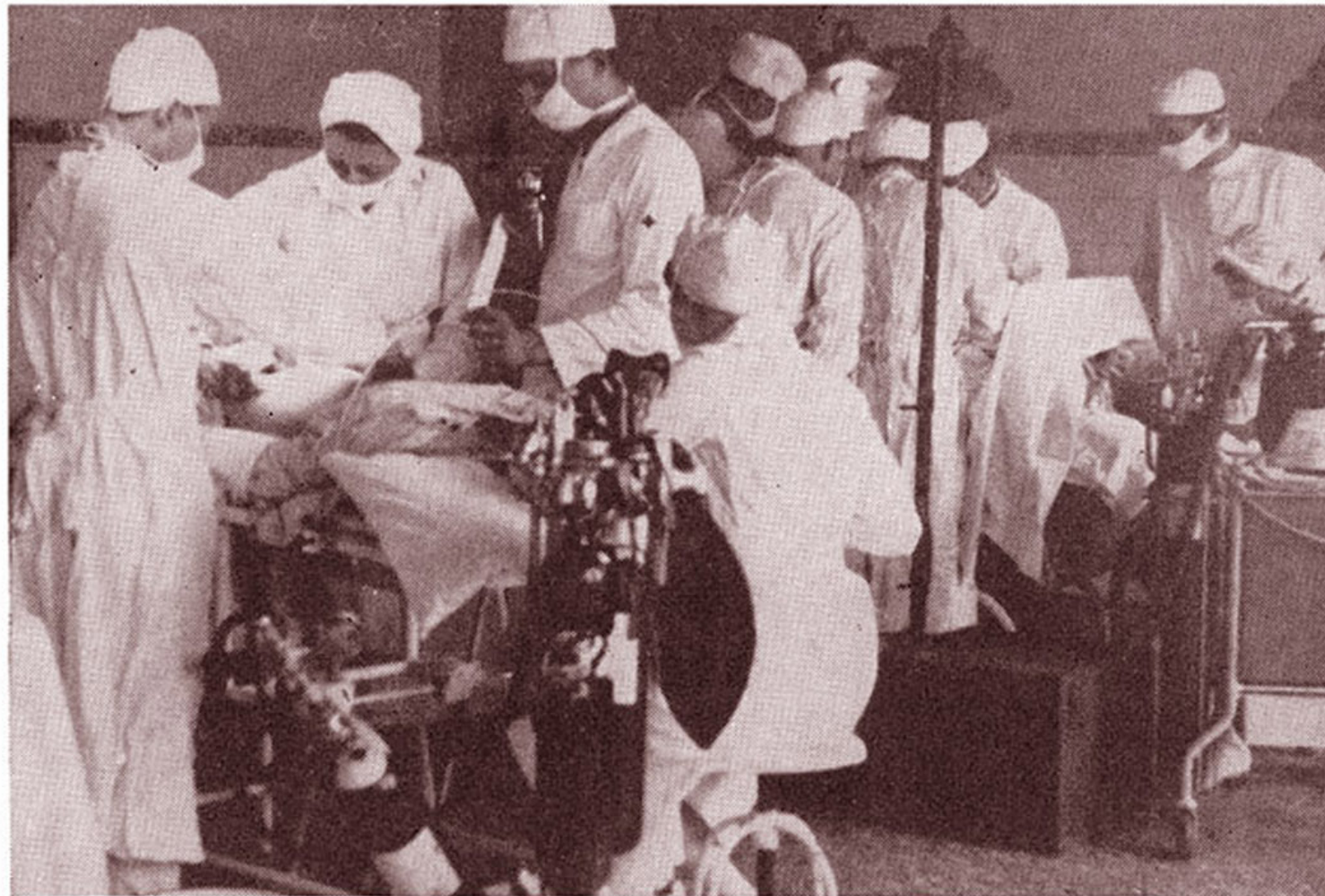
In addition to serving at base hospitals and on hospital ships, Navy Nurses also took to the airlines on their errands of mercy, serving aboard air evacuation ships which flew the wounded out of battle zones.

The Bronze Star was given to a total of thirteen Navy Nurses during the war.

One nurse received the Legion of Merit for her services in the Philippines, from which she made a dramatic escape by submarine from Corregidor where she served until two days before the end. Other awards include: two Commendation Ribbons for services performed beyond the line of duty in Africa, Italy and Guadalcanal; twelve Distinguished Unit Badges of the Army; and forty-two Navy Unit Commendations.



CAPT. SUE S. DAUSER,  
Supt., Navy Nurse Corps.



*Surgical teams work day and night to keep up with casualties from war area. In this typical operating room scene at a naval base hospital in England, a nurse gives anesthetics.*

# THINK

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