

Archive
Lakeshore Museum Center
Ruth Marie Jubb Finding Aid

Collection: Ruth Marie Jubb Collection (Archival Materials)

Object ID Number: 2002.072.001, 2002.072.026 to 2002.072.181

Location: LCM Archive, room 204, shelf N 4 or J 3

Dates: 1931 to 1996

Quantity: One archival box, 18 x 12 x 3, four photograph folders, 15 x 10.5

Restrictions: No Restrictions

Abstract: This collection of archival materials contains military orders, correspondence, certificates, publications, booklets, newspaper clippings, a scrapbook, and photographs that capture the life of Ruth Marie Jubb and her military career in the Army Nurse Corps. Ruth was born in Muskegon and served as a nurse during World War II where she was an officer responsible for supervising a hospital in Michigan and overseas in Germany. This collection of materials provides researchers with a better understanding of Ruth's experiences as a nurse in the Army Nurse Corps, Ruth's duties and responsibilities as an officer serving in the Corps, the events she encountered, and how her military career developed. The majority of the materials in this collection focus on World War II and the five years after the war officially ended.

Historical Information: Ruth Marie Jubb was born in 1910 in Muskegon to Katherine Caughey Jubb and Ray Jubb. Her parents met at Muskegon Business College and after their wedding they moved to Fruitport, where Ray was the dispatcher for the Interurban Railroad. Ruth lived in Fruitport with her family until she was in the second grade when the family moved to Muskegon Heights, where Ray worked at O. L. Gordon Manufacturing producing camshafts. Ruth and her younger sister Florence grew up in a house located at 713 Jefferson Street in Muskegon Heights.

Ruth attended Muskegon Heights Public School through the fourth grade, and then she transferred to St. Mary's Grade School. Ruth graduated from St. Mary's High School and received her nursing education at Mercy Central School of Nursing in Grand Rapids. She also received her education at St. Louis City Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri where she studied private duty nursing, operating-room technique and management. She received her Public Health Nursing certificate from the University of Michigan, where she also obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a teacher's certificate.

After graduation, Ruth worked at the University hospital of Cleveland where she was a member of the surgical team that performed the first cardiac surgeries in the county. She also held supervisory positions at St. Elizabeth's hospital in Dayton, Ohio and worked in a hospital in Toledo. She later served as the school nurse in Rochester, Michigan for six years. She was

active in the Red Cross serving as a member of the chapter nurse recruitment committee, instructing a number of nursing classes, and she was enrolled in the Red Cross first reserve for five years. Ruth was also a supervisor at Mercy hospital and was a private duty nurse at both Hackley and Mercy hospitals.

Ruth was a member of the American Nurses Association, the state organization of Public Health Nursing, Detroit Federation of Catholic Nurses, Michigan Education Association, Michigan Public Health Association, and Michigan School Health Association. She was also active in the Michigan Child Guidance Institute in Ann Arbor, and served as an instructor and consultant in the Community Health Service in a project sponsored jointly by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Department of Public Instruction.

In June of 1943, Ruth was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps and reported for active duty at Percy L. Jones Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan. In addition to her anticipated service during the duration of World War II, at the time of her commission she also signed up for six month's service after the war ended. After several months' service at Percy, Ruth held the position of First Operating Nurse in charge of three floors. In that role, she proved to be a capable and highly regarded nurse and she was well liked. Percy Hospital was a large institution that became a recuperation center for wounded and sick soldiers and fighting forces.

Most of the patients Ruth cared for at Percy were from the South Pacific and a few were from North America and Iceland. She worked on the malaria ward for a time and in Central Supply, where all sterile supplies were made ready for the wards. In Central Supply, Ruth also prepared solutions for injections and plasma, and changed surgical dressings. In 1943, a new ward was opened at Percy for the treatment and research of patients of the then new drug penicillin. Percy also had a ward for female patients, most of whom were nurses who had returned from overseas and were part of the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

In May of 1944 Ruth was promoted to First Lieutenant and was appointed as the director of the cadet nurses training under the supervision of Lieutenant Colonel E. Valine Messner, who was the principal chief nurse at the hospital. Ruth's promotion was the first one that had occurred in three months. As with other nurses and high ranking officers, Ruth had to qualify with the rifle and with the pistol.

A year later in April, Ruth was promoted to Captain and was in charge of 130 Cadet Nurses, the largest Cadet nursing enlistment in the entire Sixth Service Command. In addition, Captain Ruth Jubb served on a committee that planned the 2nd Anniversary celebration of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps.

Ruth left the United States in March 1946 aboard the steamship *S.S. Vulcania* as part of a special detachment of high ranking nurses who volunteered for overseas' assignment with the Medical Corps in Europe. She first arrived in Le Havre, France where she and other medical personnel lived in tents before moving on to a more permanent location. Ruth was assigned to the 97th General Hospital as a supervisor, and she worked to relieve administrative nurses who had been on duty in Europe for many months. She was in charge of 600 beds. The 97th Hospital was the largest hospital outside of the United States and was built by Hermann Goering. Ruth encountered a lot of patients with diseases she had not seen before as well as malnutrition. As part of her duty, she set up small wards for patients with skin diphtheria and TB and she taught

corpsmen who couldn't read how to care for the wounded in the field. In addition, Ruth helped set up a hospital for dependents coming from the United States and set up maternity and nursery wards. As there was a lack of supplies, she bought nipples on the black market and put them on Coke bottles for the infants. She also worked with other nurses to make baby shirts out of gauze used to make casts, and substituted hand towels for diapers. Overseas, Ruth was also assigned a temporary duty of accompanying patients that were being transferred to other hospitals.

While on leave at Nurnberg, Ruth attended the War Criminal Trials and she wrote the following to her parents: "I don't know what I really expected to see...Certainly I expected to see men with stronger personalities than those who sat huddled together. Goering, Streiche and the others...they looked like the run of the mill German men one sees on the streets."

In September 1946, Ruth received 11 days leave from the 97th General Hospital to take the Switzerland-Italy tour. Later that year in November, Ruth was stationed at the Mulhouse Leave Center in Mulhouse, France, to coordinate medical activities at that location. She then traveled to the War Bridges Staging Area.

In February of 1947, Ruth was sent to the Institute St. Elizabeth in Brussels, Belgium, to accompany patients who were being transferred or that needed further hospitalization. In October of 1947, she returned to Germany and was assigned at the Bad Mergentheim's 24th General Dispensary, where she served as chief nurse. At this location, Ruth encountered a water emergency that was prominent throughout Germany. The water was completely cut off in the area for a short time, and was then severely restricted and was unsafe to drink. Ruth had to be diligent about boiling water and treating water with tablets to make it safe to drink.

In April 1948, Ruth was on board the *Zebulan B. Vance* hospital ship when a riot broke out among the mental patients. The ship was traveling from Germany. The incident delayed Ruth's trip home by 21 days, as the ship had to return to port for additional staff help.

Ruth received the Army Commendation Ribbon for her achievement in organizing and promoting what was seen as the highly successful cadet nurses' training program at Percy Jones hospital. She received the award when she was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany.

While in service, Ruth sent letters to the Blue Star Mothers Rochester group listing items most needed in the military hospitals. She was also a guest speaker at the Altrusa Club where she explained the duties of nurses and nurses' aides in wartime. Ruth discussed the need for nurses, especially as replacements for those returning from overseas duties. To fill those gaps, there needed to be a least 120,000 trained nurses available. Ruth talked about how nurses are so busy that they were no longer able to make their own dressings and depended on the Red Cross for their supply. Ruth was commissioned a major in the Army Reserve Corps after serving five years as an army nurse.

She continued to advance in her military career and remained with the Army after returning to the United States. In May of 1965, Ruth was transferred from the Reserves to the Retired Reserves. By that time she had received the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Ruth Marie Jubb retired from the Army in 1970. During her active service, Ruth received the Army Commendation Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque, and the Occupation Medal (Germany).

After Ruth returned home in 1948, she enrolled in a graduate school at the University of Michigan and she finished her master's degree in 1949. After graduation, she accepted a position of supervisor of health for the Grand Rapids Public Schools. Knowing that there were numerous schools in the area that did not have medical supplies or space, Ruth's first task was to convince the public that a school health program was necessary. She developed a program where nurses were sent into schools to screen for eye, ear, teeth and other health problems. Ruth also made sure that accurate records were kept on each student's immunizations and TB tests. She also worked hard to make sure that each school provided a healthy environment. She inspected heating, lighting, seating, cleanliness, sanitation, safety, and even the water fountains. In addition, Ruth developed a health curriculum and ensured that there was instruction on hygiene and other health concerns available.

She then became the Supervisor of Health for the Grand Rapids PS, where she had the duty of administering the Saulk Vaccine, the vaccine for polio. Ruth also worked on the fluoridation of the Grand Rapids Water System. When she first arrived to the area, Grand Rapids was currently taking part in a federal study examining the effects of fluoride in drinking water. She was responsible for assisting with the examination of children's teeth with local dentists. Ruth worked on the stage of the auditorium of Central High School and was in charge of ordering towels and prepping the dental chairs for the children.

In addition, after retirement from the Army Ruth also worked on the medical component of the original Head Start Program. Ruth also assisted a local doctor, Dr. Robert Nalbanian, with his research project on sickle cell anemia. Due to her valuable assistance, Dr. Nalbanian was able to complete his study and develop a treatment for the blood disorder.

Ruth spent 23 years working as a supervisor of school health and retired in 1972. After her retirement, she traveled around the world. During her lifetime Ruth was involved with more than 20 professional and civic organizations. She was a fellow of the American School Health Association and was a member of the Royal Society of Health, London, England. Ruth died May 8, 2002 and is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Muskegon.

Scope and Contents: This collection of archival materials is organized into the following eight series: correspondence, certificates, military orders, Army Nurse Corps, ephemera, newspaper clippings, scrapbook, and photographs.

The Correspondence series includes a letter from school children sent in 1945, a letter regarding Ruth's completion of service and her being transferred to the Retired Reserves in 1965, Ruth's request for a 72 hour pass sent in 1947, and a letter Ruth sent her family in 1947.

The Certificates series contains the following: a certificate granting Ruth a life membership to the Retired Officers Association, a certificate from the Department of the Army awarding Major Ruth the Commendation Ribbon for her meritorious service in the American Theater from 1944 to 1946, a certificate of service/ transcript with Ruth's service in the active Federal Service of the US Army from 1943 to 1948, a certificate of appointment promoting Ruth to Major in the Army Nurse Corps March 22, 1948, a certificate of membership to the St. Mary's Catholic War Veterans October, 1947, and a certificate of attendance to the University of Michigan.

The Military Orders series includes any official materials sent to Ruth while she was in the Army Nurse Corps and contains orders for temporary assignments, temporary appointment from 2nd Lieutenant to 1st Lieutenant, leave orders, approved leave for personal time, authorized campaigns, orders to accompany patients, orders for passengers on the ship the *S.S. Vulcania*, orders of temporary assignments to foreign locations, and an order of approval for Ruth to receive retired monthly pay in 1970. The majority of the materials within this series are from 1943 to 1948.

The Army Nurse Corps series contains a handbook with complete information about nurses' duties, medical information, and hospital procedural information, recruitment brochures and other informational pamphlets, a sheet explaining uniform insignias, forms used by nurses such as a laundry list and a blank daily report form, a blank nurse's time on duty card, a quartermaster laundry list, and other materials as they directly relate to nursing.

The Ephemera series includes Ruth Jubb's identification card while she was a 1st Lt. for the War Department in the Army Nurse Corps, a card/pass for the Frankfurt Military Post that Ruth used while she was stationed at the 97th General Hospital, a ration card from the European Command issued August, 1947, an officer's mess card that Ruth carried at Frankfurt, a guest card for the Hotel Excelsior, a Sixth Service Command Patch, forms regarding sleeping accommodations from Ruth's travels while she was stationed at the 97th General Hospital, an admission card and tour schedule for the US Army Tours of Switzerland, an article on the New Army Hour on Airways, a map of the US occupation zone in Germany after WWII, a 1931 high school graduation program from St. Mary's High School, and a computer diskette.

The Newspaper Clippings series contains newspaper articles about Ruth Jubb, her military career, and her experiences. The articles have been photocopies and many of them are the same as articles found in the scrapbook. The articles are from 1943 to 1996.

The Scrapbook series includes a photocopy of an original scrapbook that documented Ruth Jubb's military career. The scrapbook contains copies of articles about Ruth entering the Army Nurse Corps, working at Percy Hospital, her promotion to Captain, Ruth's training schedule, military orders, telegrams sent to her family, news about other nurses Ruth knew, cards, receipts from Ruth's travels overseas, Ruth's duties at the 97th General Hospital in Germany, correspondence, postcards, napkins, photographs, and a certificate of retirement that was placed at the front of the scrapbook. The majority of the materials in the scrapbook are from 1943 to 1947.

The Photographs series contains numerous photographs of Ruth and the majority of them were created while she was in the Army Nurse Corps. There are photographs of Ruth in uniform in different settings, formal portraits, images of training exercises while Ruth was a cadet, Ruth with classes of cadets in her role as instructor, images of her and her traveling companions when she was overseas, sites that Ruth visited while in the Army Nurse Corps, photographs of the hospital where she worked in Frankfurt, Germany, images of the 1948 Winter Olympics that Ruth visited while she was in Switzerland, photographs of bombed sections in Europe, images of Ruth with her family, and photographs of Ruth's parents. A large number of the photographs are laser copies of originals. Some of the photographs are duplicates.

Arrangement: This collection was arranged previously in a manner that was not conducive to researcher needs. As this collection had been previously arranged, original order and provenance are not known. This collection was rearranged to best anticipate researcher needs and provide the best access possible. The collection was divided into logical series that would best amplify Ruth's military career and life. The computer diskette, although it might have been readable at the time it was first donated, is now corrupt and the files are unreadable. The diskette remains with the collection in hopes that the files might be retrievable with newer technology. The archival materials are placed in one box and the photographs are placed in photographic envelopes and are stored with the photographic collection.

Contents: Archival Materials 2002.072.001

Series 1: Correspondence

Dates: 1954-1965

Location: Shelf N 4

Series 2: Certificates

Dates: 1940 to 1970

Location: Shelf N 4

Series 3: Military Orders

Dates: 1943 to 1948, 1970

Location: Shelf N 4

Series 4: Army Nurse Corps

Dates: 1940s

Location: Shelf N 4

Series 5: Ephemera

Dates: 1931 to 1948

Location: Shelf N 4

Series 6: Newspaper Clippings

Dates: 1943 to 1996

Location: Shelf N 4

Series 7: Scrapbook

Dates: 1943 to 1947

Location: Shelf N 4

Contents: Photographs 2002.072.026 to 2002.072.181

Series 8: Photographs

Dates: 1910 to 1990s

Location: Cabinet J Drawer 3