

**BUMED Oral History Project
Synopsis and Glossary
CAPT Madeline Ancelard, NC, USN, Ret.**

Date and Location of Interview: February 4, 2015, telephonic
Interviewer: André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

SYNOPSIS:

CAPT Madeline Ancelard grew up in New Orleans, LA, and Los Angeles, CA. A graduate of Queen of Angels School of Nursing in 1960, Ancelard worked in intensive care and pediatrics at the Queen of Angels Hospital for two years before pursuing a career in the Navy. She entered the Navy as an Ensign, Navy Nurse Corps in 1962. During her 31 years of active duty, she was assigned to hospitals on the East and West coasts as well as hospitals in Japan, Okinawa and on board the USS *Sanctuary*. Other assignments included positions as Nurse recruiter, senior nurse at Officer Indoctrination School, Liaison officer at Bureau of Naval Personal, Administrative Assistant to Director, Navy Nurse Corps, Director of Nurses, U.S. Naval Hospital, Okinawa and commanding officer, Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor, HI and Naval Medical Clinic, Seattle, WA. Her highest rank obtained is Captain. She retired in 1993 and now resides in Edmonds, WA.

CAPT Ancelard earned a BSN from the University of Washington and Master's degree from Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey. After retiring she was employed as a manager by the Everett Clinic, Everett, WA, one of the largest private multi-service clinics in Snohomish County. Her last position at the clinic was as the Y2K coordinator for the clinic before her retirement from there in January 2000.

A charter member of the Navy Nurse Corps Association, CAPT Ancelard has been active participant in both the national and local chapter. She has served as a member of the board of directors and Treasurer of the Navy Nurse Corps Association and chairman of the History Committee. She is past president of the North West Chapter of the Navy Nurse Corps Association.

KEY ACRONYMS:

BUMED—Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
DNS—Director of Nursing Services
DOPMA—Defense Officer Personnel Management Act (1980)

DUINS-Duty Under Instruction
JAG-Judge Advocate General
MSC-Medical Service Corps
MSC-Military Sealift Command

KEY FIGURES:

Cannon, Mary Ford, CAPT, NC, USN (1921-2012) was a nurse with experience serving in the Army, Navy and as a civilian. After a stint in the Army where she served at a POW Camp and a MASH Unit in South Korea, Cannon left active duty. In January 1958, Cannon transferred to Navy Nurse Corps. She served as an instructor at the Navy womens officer school in Newport, R.I. from 1961 to 1964. Later she served at Naval Station Hospital Da Nang (1967). She retired from service in 1974.

Ford, Betty (1918-2011) served as First Lady from 1974 to 1977.

Glass, Joan Bagott "Pinky," LCDR, NC, USN. She served at Naval Hospitals San Diego (1969-1976), Jacksonville, FL (1976-1979) and aboard the hospital ship USS *Repose* (1967). She retired in 1980.

Irons, Edward, RADM, MC, USN (1913-1992) was a veteran of the Guadalcanal campaign (1942) and later a flight surgeon. He served as the Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Yokosuka from November 1964 to January 1966. He later served as the Medical Inspector General (1967-1969) and Commanding Officer of the Naval Aerospace Medical Center, Pensacola, FL (1969).

Langley, Ann, CAPT, NC, USN served as Commanding Officer of Naval Hospital Okinawa from July 1987 to July 1989.

McKay, Bernadette, CAPT, NC, USN (1928-2008). In 1975, McKay made history as the first nurse screened for command. In 1975, McKay became the first Navy nurse to serve as the director for administrative services of any medical facility (Naval Submarine Medical Center, New London, CT).

Nielubowicz, Mary Joan, RADM, NC, USN, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, 1983-1987. Often referred to as "Admiral Niel."

Ryan (later Sinclair), Irene, LT, NC, USN served in the from 1962 until her marriage in 1967.

Shea-Buckley, Fran, RADM, NC, USN, Director of the Nurse Corps (1979-1983).

Sterner, Doris May Allen, CAPT, NC, USN (1925-2015) served as the Chief Nurse at Naval Hospital Long Beach from May 1970 until her retirement in July 1971. Like CAPT Ancelard she was a graduate of the Post-Graduate Naval School in Monterey, CA (1962). In her retirement, she authored what has been considered the definitive history of the Navy Nurse Corps, *In and Out of Harm's Way* (1998).

GLOSSARY:

1964 Tokyo Olympics. The 1964 Olympics were held from 11-24 October in Tokyo. Highlights included U.S. gold medals by boxer and future heavyweight champion Joe Frazier and sprinter Bob Hayes.

Big Switch, The. Hours into his first day as commanding officer of Naval Hospital Newport, R.I., on 12 October 1962, CAPT Edward E. Hogan learned he had a personnel problem for the ages. That morning it came to light that one of his staff nurses admitted to being an imposter and having served in her identical twin sister's stead for the last 12 years. When her sister got pregnant, the sisters agreed to switch places to evade the Navy's no-pregnancy policy.

Bizarre but true, the case of the identical twin sisters was born out of Navy's restrictive policies on women through the 1970s. For many years, Navy women were forbidden from marrying and, until 1972, pregnancy was cause for instant dismissal from the service. This policy proved especially hard on the Navy Nurse Corps and contributed to the continual staff shortages at hospitals. Between fiscal years 1954 and 1962, some 736 Navy nurses were forced to resign or were dismissed from duty on account of being pregnant. The sisters had succeeded in overstepping official policy until the admission. No charges were ever filed against the nurses.

Camp Bullis, Fort Sam Houston, TX is a maneuvering ground for military services and a field medical training site for various medical units.

Commodore—The rank of commodore extends back to the days of the Continental Navy. In 1982, the Navy established the rank (Commodore Admiral, later Commodore) to denote a one-star flag officer. A year later in 1983, the designation of Commodore was changed to Rear Admiral (lower half) or RDML.

Honey Fitz, The—Built in 1931 and originally used as Harry Truman's presidential yacht, in 1961 it was renamed "Honey Fitz" by John Fitzgerald Kennedy. According to the Kennedy Presidential library, "President Kennedy had some of his happiest moments aboard the "Honey Fitz" (renamed for his maternal grandfather). A life-long lover of the sea, the President liked to slip away from the White House for a few quiet hours on the yacht in the Potomac. He also spent Easter and Christmas on the boat (in Palm Beach, FL) and in September and October took time aboard her at Hammersmith Farm (Newport, RI)...the Honey Fitz was redecorated by Jacqueline Kennedy, who installed a color television for the first time aboard the vessel, primarily for the enjoyment of her young children. Later used by Presidents Johnson and Nixon, the Honey Fitz is still in use today, but privately owned.

Cuban Missile Crisis—a 13 day confrontation (October 14-28, 1962) between the U.S. and the Soviet Union over the location of ballistic missiles in Cuba and one of the "hottest" world events of the Cold War.

Fort Mason—Port of Embarkation to Pacific stations located in San Francisco, CA.

Ikebana— The Japanese art of flower arrangement.

Jungle rot—an immersion foot syndrome that results after continual exposure to damp conditions. Sometimes mistakenly referred to as "trench foot."

Kanji— Logographic characters that are used in the Japanese writing system.

Naval Hospital Oakland, CA (AKA, Oak Knoll) was commissioned in July 1942. Originally, situated in a series of temporary structures and buildings once belonging to the Oak Knoll Country Club, a new hospital was opened in June 1968. Over the years the hospital became known as a leader in treatment of traumatic injuries and a major hub of

prosthetic research and application. In 1996, the hospital was disestablished.

Naval Hospital Yokosuka, Japan. Originally a naval dispensary placed in operation at the end of World War II, in June 1950 it was redesignated a Navy hospital. The hospital was used heavily in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Nurse Corps Screening Board (1982)—In October 1982, a Nurse Command Screening Board was held for the Navy Medical Department. CAPTs Phyllis Elsass and JoAnn Jennett were the Navy's first Nurse Corps Officers to screen for command. Later Mary Hall was selected to serve as CO at Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Salve Regina College (now known as Salve Regina University) was chartered by the State of Rhode Island in 1934. Its name means "Hail, (Holy) Queen." Today the school offers 21 graduate and undergraduate certificate programs, 10 master's degree programs, and a Ph.D. in humanities.

Stryker beds—Hospital beds. They are named after Dr. Homer Stryker (1894-1980), an orthopedic surgeon who invented a special bed that would help prevent bed sores.

USS *Sanctuary* (AH-17)—A *Haven-Class* hospital ship commissioned in 1944, 1966 and again in 1972. Used as a hospital ship in World War II and the Vietnam War, in 1972 she was sent on the humanitarian mission Project Handclasp. During her voyage to Central America and Haiti in 1973 she was made history as the first ship to have a mixed crew—male and female.

Xavier Catholic Preparatory School was founded in 1915 by Saint Katherine Drexel. It temporarily closed in 2013. Today it is known as the St. Katherine Drexel Preparatory School.

Zao Onsen—A famous ski resort in Japan opened year round located in the mountains of Yamagata prefecture.