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Q u i e t H e r o e s :
Navy Nurses of the Korean War 1950-1953
Far East Command

By Commander Frances Omori, U.S.N.

I was naked on my back on the bed. It was a genuine bed, with sheets, but I couldn't enjoy the luxury of it because the pain chewed at me. When I tried to lift my head, it pounded fiercely. I had just a glimpse of my feet. They were elevated and covered with white netting. I didn't know what was wrong with them, but they wiggled when I tried to move them. "Hi, Marine." I looked up into the beautiful brown eyes of a Navy nurse wearing a starched white uniform. "Frostbite?" I asked. My raspy voice sounded like someone else. She nodded. This was the first I knew I had frostbite. Frostbite could mean amputation. That scared the hell out of me. The Navy nurse bent down beside me and held my hand. Her voice was soft, yet firm, "You'll be fine. It will all work out." I was safe. I fell asleep.

2d Lt. Joseph R. Owen, USMC (Ret)

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA — In facilities crowded with four times more patients than the space was meant to hold, they cared for "the miracle patient," a man with half his head blown off who survived; men whose frozen feet had to be amputated; men with holes in all parts of their bodies. The nurses didn't care what their names were, or what part of the world they were from. They cared for them all with warmth, sympathy, laughter, thoughtfulness, and superb nursing skills.

Those who died, they mourned. Those who lived, they celebrated, but they were anonymous healers. They were called Brown Eyes, or Mac, or Blondie, and they were held in esteem and gratitude and remembered warmly. The nurses of the U.S. Navy served aboard the hospital ships USS Consolation, USS Repose and USS Haven, and in the hospital in Yokosuka, Japan.

For the names never remembered,
but actions never forgotten.

S. Sgt. Michael Murphy, USMCR (Ret)

Now, in QUIET HEROES, the Navy nurses are anonymous no longer, but thanked by name by grateful patients who sign their names to their reminiscences, anecdotes and praise of the nurses who healed them so long ago. As the world commemorates the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, these Navy nurses, who served quietly and never thought they did anything in the least heroic, are celebrated and thanked publicly.

Between the covers of QUIET HEROES, Commander Frances Omori has gathered pictures of nurses, doctors, corpsmen, and patients; letters of remembrance and thanks, pictures of historic documents and hospital facilities; and even pictures of holiday menus and decorations. Frances Omori currently is an active duty commander in the U.S. Navy and works as a national security analyst and strategist.

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