

Army Nurse Julia Choate Gets Captaincy

Lt. Julia Choate of the Army Nurse Corps, on duty in Korea, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

Capt. Choate entered the ANC in March, 1945, and has served at Walter Reed General Hospital in Washington, and in the Army of Occupation in Germany.

Capt. Choate is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Choate of 83 Vance Crescent. She is a graduate of Lee H. Edwards High School and Biltmore Hospital School of Nursing.

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With The Women Army Nurse Gets Commendation

By Emily Schuber

Captain Julia Choate, Army Nurse Corps, Japan, had a more modest comment to make when she recently was promoted from first lieutenant. . . "Why my promotion wasn't due me until 1952. Uncle Sam must be deciding to raise income taxes again. . ."

But this is part of the personality that makes her so invaluable in her work. She served five months as a surgical nurse in an evacuation hospital in Pusan. . . When she was returned to Tokyo, a letter of commendation was sent by her commanding officers. It said in part: "The sincere, efficient manner in which she completed assigned tasks without regard to fatigue and loss of sleep is in the finest tradition of the Army Medical service. Capt. Choate was an asset to this organization." And what an organization it must be. . . She writes her mother, Mrs. A. C. Choate, that during the five months in Pusan, 29,000 patients were treated, 2,000 major surgical and 3,500 minor surgical operations

were performed, and the death rate of United Nations patients was less than one per cent at her hospital.

Capt. Choate is now the supervisor of the operating room of the Army Hospital Annex in Tokyo and writes that at present the hospital is filled with Turks, who are really fighters, both physically and mentally, but whose presence creates quite a language difficulty. It must be quite an experience to walk into a ward with French, Greeks, Dutch, Siamese, Scotch and Australians (in addition to Turks) all asking for something at once.

Capt. Choate has been in the Army since 1945 and has served in Germany for two years. Now she is working 12 hours a day, is on call at all times, and loves her work. Coincidentally her sister, Miss Emily Choate, is employed in the office of the surgeon-general in the Pentagon, and at present is handling records of the Army nurses. . . So one member of her family can keep up with her offi-

cially.

It is with pride that the women of Asheville can look to Julia Choate, who so well represents them in the latest world conflict.

Tipsy Pudding is February's recipe and a tasty and tangy dessert; it is for a cold day. . . Mrs. Nathan McCarley explains that it is an old southern dish, which she has added to and changed until it's just about tops. With Valentine's Day around the corner, Tipsy Pudding will grace the holiday table well, for it is very festive topped with maraschino cherries.

Take left over cake or cookies (Mrs. McCarley prefers pound cake that is several days old) and line the bottom of a serving bowl with pieces broken into lady finger strips. Moisten liberally with sherry and spread with jam or jelly. (Quince or raspberry are particularly good and can be mixed with that extra dab of marmalade that is left in the jar.) Sprinkle with blanched, chopped almonds and pour chilled

Nurse Tells Of Vietnam

She's Not A Typical Woman

By KATHY BENNETT
Times-News Staff Writer
Shirley Blanchard looks like
"the girl next door."

A petite brunette, she's five feet, three inches tall and weighs 110 pounds. She fits nicely into a 7-8 dress, she wears her hair in the popular cropped style and she has a marvelous tan.

Sounds like someone you know?

Shirley Blanchard is a captain in the Army Nurse Corps. She just returned home after a 15-month tour of duty in Vietnam, and she's been decorated with the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Capt. Blanchard definitely is not what one would think of as a typical young woman. She is young—just 24—but she has a kind of wisdom that usually comes with years. She is small and slim, and yet she has never herself to be strong. She found her work as nurse to 1,700 neurosurgical patients, 1,400 of whom underwent operative procedures, depressing—yet she was awarded a medal for her smile.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Blanchard of Rt. 7, Burlington, Capt. Blanchard is a 1962 graduate of Elon College High School. She was graduated from Mercy School of Nursing in Charlotte in 1965 and worked first as a general duty nurse at Memorial Hospital of Alamance, then as a pediatric nurse at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte. She entered serv-



CAPT. SHIRLEY BLANCHARD

ice in May 1966, when she was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

For reasons even she does not understand, the captain has, as long as she can remember, wanted to be an Army nurse. She joined the Army Student Nurse Program in 1964 in preparation for an Army career she plans to continue.

Following basic training at Ft. Sam Houston, Tex., she was sent to an Army hospital at Ft. McArthur, Calif., for eight months. She volunteered for duty in Vietnam, and, when her initial 12-month tour of duty in the war-torn country was completed in February of this year, she

requested and was granted a three-month extension.

Why would any young woman want to go to Vietnam? Capt. Blanchard says she volunteered because she knew that the nursing care would be so different from anything she could be doing here. It would be a challenge, an adventure. It would mean traveling, it would be valuable experience, and, most important of all, she felt that she would be doing a valuable service for her country and its fighting men.

The 400-bed 24th Evacuation Hospital in Long Bien, South Vietnam, was the local girl's first and only assignment. When she first arrived, there was no running water in her ward, an intensive care unit for neurosurgical patients. A doctor used his own ingenuity to make running water possible.

There also were times when supplies were limited and Capt. Blanchard and other nurses had to use their ingenuity to meet patients' needs until the supplies were available. Supplies were and are not the only shortages, however. There are not enough nurses in Vietnam to meet the need, and a 12-hour workday, six days a week, is the result.

In addition to very traumatic injuries to the brain or spinal cord, many of her patients also suffered injuries to the chest, abdomen or

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Local Nurse Serving In Army



First Lt. Madeline Barneycastle, daughter of Alexander F. Barneycastle of 819 Central Avenue, is shown above at the Air Force Base at Kelly, Tex., with soldier patients who were wounded in action in Korea and are being transported to Brooke Army Hospital for treatment.

Lt. Barneycastle completed a nine-week flight nurse training course in June, and is now helping to fly the wounded from advanced bases near the front of the fighting in Korea to hospitals in this country.

A graduate of Hillsboro High School, she received her nurses' training at the M.L. Sinal School of Nursing at New York City. She entered the Army Nurses Corps in 1941, and served two years in England during World War II.

She received her discharge from the Army at the close of the war, and for a time was employed by the late Dr. F. T. Harper of Burlington as office and clinic nurse. Re-entering the Army approximately three years ago, she saw service in Japan before entering the flight nurses' school in May.