

**Kathleen M. Brooks  
Veteran**

**Interviewed on 6 March 2002  
Institution interviewed at Rome Free Academy  
Rome, NY 13441**

**Interviewers  
Kristina Johnson  
James Calandra**

**KJ:** What was your Education before the War?

**KB:** High School, and three (3) years of Nurses Training in New York City.

**KJ:** What branch of service were you in?

**KB:** Nurse Core.

**KJ:** When did you enter?

**KB:** June 1993.

**KJ:** Where did you enter?

**KB:** New York City.

**KJ:** What locations were you at?

**KB:** First I was at Halloran General Hospital in Staten Island... Camp Rucker, Alabama... and then I was... went overseas to England with the Fifty-Sixth General Hospital, I don't know if you want that.

**KJ:** Is that the Unit you were assigned to?

**KB:** Pardon?

**KJ:** Is that the Unit you were assigned to?

**KB:** Was that what?

**KJ:** The unit you were assigned to?

**KB:** I went there with that Unit, ya know, the whole hospital unit went together, that's how it worked.

**KJ:** What was your unit like?

**KB:** What was my what?

**KJ:** The unit, what were they like?

**KB:** I can't hear ya hunny.

**KJ:** What was your unit like?

**KB:** What was what?

**KJ:** The unit, the people you went with.

**KB:** Oh, well it was doctors, nurses, dentists, dietitians, and what they called utility workers, who did the maintenance of any of the outfits we were with.

**KJ:** What was your everyday life like?

**KB:** In England?

**KJ:** Yes

**KB:** Well, in England it was... we lived sixteen (16) to a hut. I was taking care of casualties, at that time, from Africa and Sicily and Italy that were being treated and eventually going back to the states. Some of them would return to duty, depending on their injuries; but it was very dreary in England. There was a complete blackout every night and the people were very, very depressed about conditions. It was a very dreary atmosphere, but you can't write all that.

**KJ:** What were your duties?

**KB:** I was a nurse on one of the wards

**KJ:** Did your equipment work well?

**KB:** Pardon?

**KJ:** Did your equipment work well?

**KB:** Oh, yes. Yes.

**KJ:** Did you know anything about the enemy's equipment?

**KB:** Notice anything about what?

**KJ:** Did you know anything about the enemy's equipment?

**KB:** The others? No.

**KJ:** What were the patients like in your care like?

**KB:** What were they like?

**KB:** They were... they were really wonderful. They were very patriotic, they were always concerned about the rest of their friends at the front or what would happen to them and they weren't, ya know, down about being there. Most of the time they knew it was their duty and they acted accordingly.

**KJ:** Was there anyone special from your care that you remember?

**KB:** Pardon?

**KJ:** Was there anyone special from your care that you remember?

**KB:** Oh, I remember a lot of them, but I can't, I can't remember their names, but most of them were young fellas, nineteen (19), twenty (20), twenty-one (21), and some were very homesick.

**KJ:** Did you ever have mixed feelings about taking care of people who were the enemy?

**KB:** About people, what?

**KJ:** Who were the enemy? Taking care of them?

**KB:** No, I didn't, most of the time. And I did work with a lot of German prisoners that were patients that we had captured but needed hospital care. I can say I was completely soft-hearted with them because there was one incident, they were usually quite respectful but the minute they heard about a particular event over there, which was called the Battle of the Bludge, where the Germans made a last stich effort in December and they thought it was going their way, which I was working on a prisoner ward at the time and they changed completely in their attitude. They were so sure this was it, they were going to win the war. They became very arrogant, which they were inclined to be anyway, but I didn't have any problem with them.

**KJ:** Is there anyone from your service who you remember best?

**KB:** Anyone what?

**KJ:** Anyone from your service, a friend that you remember best?

**KB:** You mean my co-workers or the patients?

**KJ:** Co-workers

**KB:** Oh yes. I'm in touch with quite a few and they have a reunion every few years.

**KJ:** What was the most inspiring thing that you experienced in the war?

**KB:** Inspiring thing?

**KJ:** Yeah, what inspired you?

**KB:** I would say the attitude of the American Soldier, who felt that they wanted to do their duty and be finished with the war and that's the way they felt. Ya know, I think of that because I know how much went on after Vietnam War, ya know, people protested that we shouldn't of been there; but it wasn't like that in World War Two [WWII], It was not like that in WWII.

**KJ:** What experience do you feel left the greatest impression on you?

**KB:** I think that, well wait a minute... that incident about the way the Germans changed, but also the experience of landing on the Omaha Beach Head. It was a few weeks after D-Day. That's it.

**KJ:** What was your highest Rank?

**KB:** Pardon?

**KJ:** Your highest Rank?

**KB:** First Lieutenant

**KJ:** Did you receive any [unclear]?

**KB:** Yes, I have three (3) Campaign Ribbons and two Battle Stars.

**KJ:** What was your life like after the war?

**KB:** Pardon?

**KJ:** What was your life like after the war?

**KB:** Well, I was glad to be back home and I've been happy ever since, because I have a family and I put it all behind me.

**KJ:** Is there anything else you want to talk about?

**KB:** Pardon?

**KJ:** Is there anything else about your service that you want to talk about?

**KB:** I can't think of anything else. I mean I was glad I served, I don't regret that. That's it and I'm still proud to be an American. I'm sorry to see that we're in a war right now too and losing lives, American lives, but that's about it dear. Unless there is something else you want to know?

**KJ:** That's all the questions.