

824 MEDICAL AIR EVACUATION SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

824 Medical Air Evacuation Squadron

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

June 1944, six nurses and one flight surgeon were assigned from the 826th squadron at Bowman, Kentucky to Palm Springs, California. Within the month, four additional nurses and another flight surgeon were assigned. I believe the other flights at Romulus, Michigan and Memphis, Tennessee were similarly staffed. The day before we were to transport patients, we flew to Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco. We stayed with the same plane and crew

throughout our trip. We picked up patients and flew them to hospitals for definitive treatment or to a hospital near their home. The personnel from Letterman would make phone calls to the first stop for each plane and advise the base how many ambulatory and how many litter patients would be off-loaded as well as the ETA. From then on, it was the flight nurse's duty to make those phone calls. At times, these cross country trips would last three days. If there were patients on the east coast, we would make a return trip westward. In the early stages, newspaper coverage was extensive and interest of ground personnel was intense but as the newness of the program wore off, so did the cooperation and exposure.

At Palm Springs, the nurses lived in a one story barracks. We each had our own bedroom and there was one living room to share. We had a field telephone connected to the night surgeon's office only. To shower, we had to go to a separate building about 200 feet away. Not exactly living at the Ritz but the gorgeous weather helped a lot.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.