

What is your full name and when were you born?

Mrs. Marshall: My full name is Betty Marie Scough Cross Marshall. I was born 8-18-23 in Sterling, Illinois.

What branch of the service did you serve in?

Mrs. Marshall: In the Army Nurse Corp.

What were your parent's names and their occupations?

Mrs. Marshall: My father's name was Elmer Scough. My mother's name Clara Frances Dougherty Scough. My father was a farmer. He raised corn up in Illinois and my mother was a housewife. She had three children to raise and didn't ever work outside the home.

Did you have any brothers and sisters?

Mrs. Marshall: I have a brother and a sister, both older than I am.

You graduated from high school correct?

Mrs. Marshall: Yes, in 1941, Caldwell High School in Caldwell, Kansas.

Do you remember anything about the Great Depression?

Mrs. Marshall: We all lived with my grandparents then because my mother and father had died. He moved us from Illinois to Kansas and I remember everybody was depressed financially and emotionally. Some people were so depressed emotionally they committed suicide.

You were talking earlier that you remembered the dust blow during those years. Tell me about that.

Mrs. Marshall: Very, very much. The dust was blowing everywhere just like a big cloud of smoke. It was in the house and people covered up there upholstered furniture with sheets and bedspreads. It blew the topsoil of the ground. In the recent times out there in Kansas they had planted shelter belts they called them of trees and bushes where the wind doesn't blow continuously that hard and the birds have a place to rest too.

How did the dust blow affect your family?

Mrs. Marshall: I don't know that it affected us much more than anybody else. We were just farmers and I remember there was a tornado not far from where we lived and we went over to see what happened afterward. There was a car that was blown from the top of a bluff down to the little creek that was down there and it was blowing clear down there. I remember there were chickens running with their feathers off that had been in the tornado and houses were destroyed. There was a piano there that was just torn all to pieces.

Did you have a job in between when you graduated from high school and before going into service?

Mrs. Marshall: When I graduated from high school I went directly into nurses training. When I graduated from nurse's training I had a job working at the hospital where I graduated. I think I mentioned this earlier, but I belonged to the Cadet Nurse Corp. That was an organization that I had not heard of. I knew

of only one other member that belonged to that but they paid us some money and we had uniforms and we needed all the money we could get in those days. The only stipulation in return, we had to serve in the Army.

Do you remember feeling threatened by Japan or the Nazis before Pearl Harbor?

Mrs. Marshall: Really we were so interested in nurses training; that it was just the beginning of our nurses training and we were studying trying to pass all the subjects, but we didn't know much about it. The main thing we remembered afterward was how food and shoes and things were rationed. They rationed peaches and coffee and things like that. People couldn't get the things because the Army needed it. There was a motto: "Lucky strike green has gone to war" and they changed the color of lucky strike cigarettes from green to white. They didn't make any cars from 1941-1945. There were no cars; they made jeeps then, all the car manufacturers.

You weren't able, because of your studies, you didn't keep up with newspapers and stuff during that time?

Mrs. Marshall: Not too much, not very much. When you are in nurses training or college you don't keep a whole lot with other things because you are so desperate to study and pass the grades because in nurses training you couldn't fail it or anything or you were dismissed from nurses training. You had to pass every subject you took and there was no choice of subjects. It was, this is it, this is what you take.

Do you remember where you were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

Mrs. Marshall: Yes I do. We were in the cafeteria and it was about supper time and we heard it. Someone yelled, "They are bombing Pearl Harbor" and we ran over to the nurses home so we could hear it on the radio. That is about all I remember. Everything changed after that. Everybody's thinking and everybody's job and your attitude changed just a whole bunch.

Do you remember FDR's speech the next day?

Mrs. Marshall: I don't remember that.

How did you feel about him as the President, about his job?

Mrs. Marshall: I thought he was very efficient. I remember, of course my grandfather was a Democrat and I was raised in a Democratic family. My grandfather thought FDR was just absolutely great.

Walk me through your entire nurses training.

Mrs. Marshall: When I first registered it was just \$125.00 for books and we had white uniforms and caps and we got to live in the dorm. That was all we ever paid, \$125.00. That was a lot of money in 1941.

How many years did that cover?

Mrs. Marshall: Three years with two weeks' vacation each year. It was three full years.

Where was that at?

Mrs. Marshall: In Kansas City, Missouri, St. Luke's Hospital. It's named a little differently now because they've got some more programs. They have a degree program and some other things there now.

You talked about the cadet nursing corp. When did they activate you for training?

Mrs. Marshall: I was in training and I think it was in my senior year that we joined, if you wanted to, but you had to agree to join the Army when you graduated. You had to be licensed. You had to graduate from a licensed accredited nursing school and then get your state board; take your state board exams to be a licensed registered nurse. There is a lot of difference between just being a graduate nurse and being a licensed registered nurse.

When they fully inducted you into the nurse corp., where did they ship you off to?

Mrs. Marshall: I went to Kansas City, Missouri, to be commissioned and then took a train to Camp Carson, Colorado. I was in basic training for three weeks. We got to sort of choose where we wanted to serve after that and since Fort Riley was as close to my home as anything that is where I chose to go. I wasn't there very long until I had orders to go overseas.

What kind of training did you have to do at Camp Carson?

Mrs. Marshall: Just basic training. Learn how the organization of the Army was, how the ranks ranged from 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, Captain, and you learned a lot of how the military worked and just basic military.

How long were you at Fort Riley?

Mrs. Marshall: I was not there but six weeks and I had orders to go overseas. They let me go home on a week furlough and then I came back and it wasn't more than a week later that I was on a...this other 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant had been home on furlough from the Pacific because a member of her family had died and she and I went to Kansas City, got on a train and went to Miami Beach, Florida. We stayed at the Floridian Hotel I think it was two or three weeks and we had to answer roll call everyday to see if we were on a list to go overseas. Finally after two or three weeks, I forget how long, we were assigned to go overseas and we didn't know where we were going. We got on a plane and after we were halfway across the ocean, more than halfway, the man who was in charge of us opened orders and we realized we were going to the China Burma India Theatre.

Tell me about the entire trip across the Atlantic.

Mrs. Marshall: We left Miami Beach and we went to the Bermuda Islands for refueling. We went to the Azure Islands for refueling. We went to Casablanca, Morocco, and we were there more than just refueling almost 24 hours. Then we flew to Libya for refueling and I can't remember the capital of that.

Was it Tripoli?

Mrs. Marshall: Yes. We flew to Cairo, Egypt, and we got to see the pyramids and the sphinx from the air. We flew to Abadan, Iran, for refueling and you see those are hot countries and we had on our wool clothes. There sure is a difference when you are down on the ground at that temperature and up in the air where it is cool. Then we flew to Karachi, India. It was not Pakistan then, it was India. We were there I know two or three weeks before we even knew where we were going. When we found out we were to go into Lido that was in the far eastern part of India. We flew across New Delhi and we could see the Taj Mahal. Then we landed in Lido and this was the 20<sup>th</sup> General Hospital. It was the 0 mile mark of the coming road that took supplies through China to the troops over there. The Army people built the road

that went to China and it was very dangerous because, well it just was. It was through country that people might harm you.

Had that been the first time you had ever been on an airplane?

Mrs. Marshall: For any length of time I believe. I think maybe I flew up once before but not for any length of time.

What kind of other people were on the plane? Do you remember?

Mrs. Marshall: I think most of it was military going somewhere.

What was the general environment in Lido where you were stationed?

Mrs. Marshall: It was very hot. I remember that it would rain every day. It was called then monsoon. In the barracks where we lived we had boards under our beds that were from the head to the foot. We had to keep our shoes on these two strips of board so they wouldn't mildew and mold in the night. It was so damp. We couldn't keep bread or crackers or anything in the kitchen because it would spoil. Overnight it would mold so fast. The ceiling, the walls did not go clear to the roof. There was a bare space up there. At many times you would hear the big rats running up and down the walls. We slept under mosquito nets for mosquito protection but we also did it to keep the rats from us too.

Walk me through a typical day in Lido.

Mrs. Marshall: We would go to work. We worked four shifts a day instead of three. We would work from 7-1, 1-7 daytime, 7-1 and 1-7 nights. It was almost like any other hospital. You would go in and you would give medicine to the patients. You had a corpsman to help you with some of the work and you bathed people that were really sick; just regular nursing care. We were not office people; we were nurses in the service.

How were your living conditions there?

Mrs. Marshall: Alright. There were two to an apartment like; there were six rooms, six apartments, in each building for the nurses and there were two to each compartment.

How long were you over there?

Mrs. Marshall: Altogether, from the time I went in until I got out, I was in 13 ½ months. I was one of the last nurses to leave. After V-E Day, well soon after I got over there, they stopped all the rotation of people. We were supposed to be the relief people and they wouldn't let the ones who had been there for a couple of years go home because it just stopped. Then it was V-J day when the Japanese fighting was over and then they started sending everybody home; patients, nurses, doctors, everything. I was there with 25 patients and I left on Christmas Day of 1945. We flew to Calcutta and then we had to wait again to get on a ship to go home. I think we were there a week or two or three. I am not sure. Finally we got on a Marine Fox, a Marine ship. There were 2,000 men and 50 women and Red Cross and nurses. We were in a real bad storm out in the middle of the Pacific. We went around down Singapore but we didn't get off the boat. We went past the Philippines but we didn't get off the ship. We landed at Seattle, Washington.

Where were you transported from there?

Mrs. Marshall: I went on a train to Chicago to Fort Sheridan, I think it was Fort Sheridan, and that is where I was honorably discharged. I was not in the regular Army, I was in the reserves. That is why we just had to serve as long as they needed us. I think we got, I don't remember, if we got any extra pay when we got out. The enlisted men got extra pay when they got out but I don't think we, I'm not sure at all about that.

When you were in Lido did you have to make any special accommodations for the environment?

Mrs. Marshall: It was just very hot and it would rain every day. We learned that our shoes would get mold and mildew and bread and crackers wouldn't keep.

You said there was a change of uniforms.

Mrs. Marshall: We didn't wear white. We wore brown and white striped uniforms and they didn't have buttons on them. They just wrapped around. Our caps were different. It was just a little flat cap that stood up but we still had our bar and insignia that we wore on anything.

Tell me the story you had about a wild critter.

Mrs. Marshall: Okay. This was the last place that I served at. It was, these men were the last ones to leave and I was one of the last nurses. When I came in the ward that morning the men were sitting up in the bed and the corpsman said, "Don't turn around, just walk straight through the ward." I walked to the back and then I did turn around and there was a large python over the door that I had walked over. He was up one side of the door, across the top, and down the other side. He didn't bother me. The MPs came and got him.

What did you do for free time in Lido and on the ship too?

Mrs. Marshall: In Lido we would take side trips. I remember going into Burma with somebody just to see the country. I think it's not even called Burma anymore. On the ship we were in that bad storm. The men who were on the ship running the ship, the Marines, they were standing along the corridors guiding us because it was still moving so much. All the dishes fell off the shelves of the cabinet. It was just real bad. They had to improvise for cooking everything. Nobody was allowed to go on the top deck at all during the storm. Finally it was over.

How long did it last?

Mrs. Marshall: I don't remember, it lasted several hours. It was in the night one time that I remember. There were six of us in this one compartment and our luggage was sliding back and forth. We were hanging on the bars trying to stay in the bed.

Did you meet somebody special on that boat trip?

Mrs. Marshall: Yes I did. We played cards all the way. It was Agney Eldridge Cross, Jr. and that's who I, we married after we, oh it was awhile. He lived in Benton, Kentucky. We met there later. We came back to Kansas City, Kansas, to get married. We were married in June 1946.

When you went home and you went to Chicago and you were discharged, that didn't end your involvement with the military. Tell me about a job that you have had for over 28 years.

Mrs. Marshall: I didn't have to belong to the military, but the military ran the job and it was at the Milan Army Ammunition Plant. We lived in \_\_\_\_\_ at the time and I worked out there as an Occupational Health Nurse Supervisor. I worked for 28 years and I retired in 1990. This A.E. Cross, he had a nickname called Chris, and we had four children which are still alive and well and doing very well.

What did you do at the Milan Army Ammunition Plant?

Mrs. Marshall: We tried to keep people well and keep them at work. We did a lot of testing to see if they could see well enough to drive a truck or hear well enough to pass a hearing test. We did a lot of preventive things. We gave shots to keep their records up to date. We had occasional injuries. We had a few real bad injuries but our safety record was very good. If we had an injury that needed suturing the doctor that worked there was a medical doctor and he didn't do suturing so we would send it to the hospital in town or to Jackson if a bone was broken or anything.

How do you generally feel about your experience with the military?

Mrs. Marshall: Very good, very good. I'm proud to have been a veteran. I think that some of the benefits of veterans have, I have not even investigated, but I know when my husband died the children were not out of school and they did get some benefits. They got some money to go to college from his being in the military too. I don't have any connections with the military anymore. I'm not in the reserves or anything.

(End of Interview)