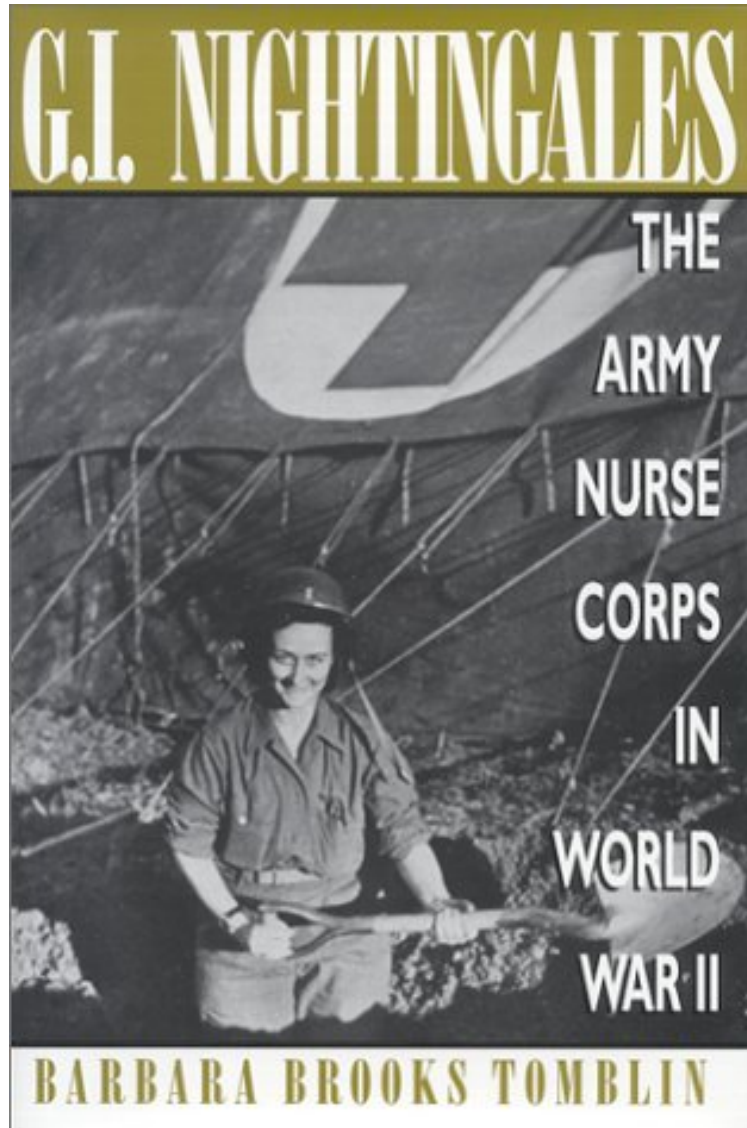


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G. I. Nightingales: The Army Nurse Corps in World War II

Barbara Tomblin

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"Weaving together information from official sources and personal interviews, Barbara Tomblin gives the first full-length account of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in the Second World War. She describes how over 60,000 army nurses, all volunteers, cared for sick and wounded American soldiers in every theater of the war, serving in the jungles of the Southwest Pacific, the frozen reaches of Alaska and Iceland, the mud of Italy and northern Europe, or the heat and dust of the Middle East. Many of the women in the Army Nurse Corps served in dangerous hospitals near the front lines 201 nurses were killed by accident or enemy action, and another 1,600 won decorations for meritorious service. These nurses address the extreme difficulties of dealing with combat and its effects in World War II, and their stories are all the more valuable to women's and military historians because they tell of the war from a very different viewpoint than that of male officers. Although they were unable to achieve full equality for American women in the military during World War II, army nurses did secure equal pay allowances and full military rank, and they proved beyond a doubt their ability and willingness to serve and maintain excellent standards of nursing care under difficult and often dangerous conditions.

From Library Journal Tomblin (history, Rutgers Univ.) has written an account of the 80,000 army nurses who served during World War II. These nurses participated in every theater of the war; some died while on duty, and many were decorated for their bravery. Along with their deserving stories, the reader learns the history of women nurses in the military. Tomblin allows the nurses to tell their stories in their own words, describing everything from operating room procedures to their participation in the Normandy invasion. The writing is engaging and should have broad appeal for everyone interested in World War II. ?Dorothy Lilly, Grosse Pointe North H.S. Lib., Mich. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Tomblin's admirable narrative history of the U.S. Army nurses of World War II avoids the Procrustean theoretical apparatus of gender studies to straightforwardly tell who did what, where and when. The Army Nurse Corps, originally with rather than in the army, was reorganized and expanded just in time for World War II. After reporting that development, Tomblin follows the nurses from the vast Pacific to the intense European to the miseries of the China-Burma-India theaters of war. She also recalls the work of the nurses who held the fort at army hospitals back home and the particular story of African American nurses, who suffered discrimination during the war and oblivion afterward. Tomblin's modest volume (considering the potential size of the subject) makes a thoroughly readable addition to World War II and women's studies collections. Roland Green Barbara Tomblin's *G. I. Nightingales: The Army Nurse Corps In World War II* gives the first full-length account of 60,000 army nurses, all volunteers, caring for the sick and wounded American soldiers in every theater of the war, serving in the jungles of the Southwest Pacific, the frozen reaches of Alaska and Iceland, the mud of Italy and northern Europe, or the heat and dust of the Middle East. 201 nurses were killed by accident or enemy action, and another 1,600 won decorations for meritorious service. These nurses address the extreme difficulties of dealing with combat and its effects in World War II, and their stories are all the more valuable to women's and military historians because they tell of the war from a very different viewpoint than that of male officers. Tomblin also discusses the history of the Army Nurse Corps and addresses the implications of its decision to enlist African-American nurses and the experiences of these women out in the field. Although they were unable to achieve full equality for American women in the military during World War II, army nurses did secure equal pay allowances and full military rank, and they proved beyond a doubt their ability and willingness to serve and maintain excellent standards of nursing care under difficult and often dangerous conditions. *G. I. Nightingales* is an important and vital contribution to any comprehensive military studies collection on World War II, women's history curriculum reading list, or history of medical studies library . -- Midwest Book