

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

MAIN ENTRY: Brantley, Hattie

DATE OF INTERVIEW: February 24, 2003

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Jefferson, Texas

INTERVIEWER: David Marshall

FORMAT: File on Server

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 2:06

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Hattie Brantley talks about her service in the army as a nurse. She discusses her experiences during WWII in the Philippines and as a POW.

ABSTRACT:

CD 1

TIME STAMP

Introduction	:00
Background	
Childhood memories	
Family farm	
Attended high school for 5 years	
Attended Baylor University	
Nursing program requirements	
Became an army nurse in 1939	
Worked at Fort Sam Houston	
Worked in the Philippines	:10
Ambition to see the world	
Travel experiences	
Expectations of war	
Pearl Harbor	

Casual atmosphere on base Set up hospitals in Manila	
Experiences with war casualties	:20
Extent of injuries	
Japanese disregard for the Geneva Convention	
Nurses transferred to Bataan	
Bombing of the bus convoy	
Hospital structures and amenities	
Japanese bombing	
Constructing new hospitals	:30
Using available materials	
Limited medical care	
Transferred to Corregidor	
Concern for patients left in Bataan	
Morale and sense of humor	
Corregidor surrendered to the Japanese	:40
Ordered to continue caring for patients	
Given morphine tablets	
Issued GI clothing	
Loss of radio communication	
Nurses were taken prisoner	
Japanese did not allow women in their army	
Placed in a civilian internment camp in Manila	
Used the University of Santo Tomas as living quarters	
Philippine allegiance to General MacArthur	
Nurses' preference for General Wainwright	
Living conditions in the camp	:50
Meal rations	
Communication through notes hidden in food	
Prisoners from different ethnicities	
Families were separated into different barracks	
Set up a school system in Santo Tomas	
Different languages	
Available medical care	1:00
Malnutrition in children	
Unsanitary conditions	
Methods of acquiring foods	
Trading rations for cigarettes	
Death and loss of morale in the camp	

Camaraderie between nurses	1:10
Moral support	
Toughness of chief nurse	
Rotation of commanders to prevent Americanization	
Japanese executed disobedient Americans	
Inhumanity of Japanese military	
Philippine assistance to prisoners	1:20
Captured transporting notes	
Punishment for prisoners	
Religious services allowed within the camp	
Rumors of liberation	1:30
Liberation in February 1945	
Japanese intention to annihilate prisoners	
Surprise attack on Santo Tomas	
Received letters with information from home	
Nurses were transported first by plane	
Illness as a result of imprisonment	1:40
Weight loss	
Common diseases	
Had hepatitis later in life	
Placed in hospital in San Francisco to monitor health	
Arrived back in Jefferson	
Her mother and siblings still lived on the farm	
Rations still intact	
Readjusting to life in the United States	
Reported to Hot Springs, Arkansas for rehabilitation	
Protocol of POW secrecy	1:50
Continued military service	
Her responsibility to train nurses	
She was the last POW nurse to retire	
Traveled as a head nurse	
Promoted to First Lieutenant, then Captain	
Retired in 1969	
Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel upon retirement	
Moved to Jefferson, Texas	
Marion County Hospital	
Adventist administration of the hospital	
Her brother retired to Jefferson as well	
Began beekeeping	2:02

Brantley Bees warehouse
Retailers of all-natural honey

Interview ends

DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT:

GENDER OF INFORMANT: Female

ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT: