

ALABAMA VETERAN MARY DUNCAN NOTO

In 1942, when people thought of the war and those who were fighting it, they almost automatically thought of men. What few realized was that there were also plenty of dedicated women in the service who were helping with the cause as well. One such woman was Mary Duncan Noto of Selma, Alabama. She recalls,

"During WWII, the Army Nurse Corps grew to more than 60 thousand women. I was one of them. I was only 21 and had hardly set foot out of Alabama when the army sent me to India right after I completed training.

"In my time over there our primary responsibility was helping injured GIs get back to hospitals in Calcutta. Eventually I was selected for assignment to General Claire Chennault's Flying Tigers at Kunming, China. Our job was to fly missions out into the fields to treat casualties. I flew 25 missions in all. After the war, I came back home and adjusted back to life away from the destruction and conflict. The war was a terrible thing, but I'm glad that, if it did have to happen, I could be there to help ease some of the suffering."