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# Transitions

MOVES, MILESTONES AND MORE



The before and after views of the renovations still being done at the George C. Marshall home, Dodona Manor, in Leesburg, Va.



PHOTOS COURTESY JUDITH P. LILLIS

## Gen. George C. Marshall house restored

A dilapidated old farmhouse in Virginia is undergoing a much-needed transformation in tribute to its former inhabitant — Gen. George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff during World War II and mastermind of the Marshall Plan to restore postwar Europe.

Dodona Manor in Leesburg, less than an hour's drive from Washington, D.C., is being restored to look like it did in the 1940s and '50s, when Marshall and his wife lived there. It was the only real home for Marshall, who spent most of his life moving from one Army post to another.

Outside structural repairs of the home are due to be complete in June, while restoration of the interior and garden is expected in about five more years.

A German corporation, the Tengelmann Group, donated \$1 million toward

the \$2 million-plus purchase price of the home, said Pat Muth, director for tourism and marketing for the George C. Marshall International Center, which purchased Dodona and is restoring it. Both Americans and Europeans are raising money for the project, which was in danger of not materializing because a local developer wanted to tear it down and build a shopping center, she said.

"This was the house where Marshall lived during the most important period of his life. It was not an elegant home. It was his retreat from Washington. He'd come here and put on his old clothes and go out into the garden and work. He had a large vegetable garden and also enjoyed pruning the trees," Muth said.

Marshall's stepdaughter

and her husband lived in the house until 1991. The family and the center are in possession of all of the household items that were in Dodona when Marshall resided there, including a painting of Marrakesh by Winston Churchill that the British prime minister gave the general in 1945, and raw silk drapes, a gift from Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

Marshall wrote part of the Marshall Plan in the office of Dodona, Muth said. The main part of Dodona was built in the 1820s; in later years, additions were tacked on. "Every single piece of furniture in the home belonged to George Marshall. We're not planning on having anything in the house that was not there when he lived there," Muth said.

— Jane McHugh



## DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY

A 5-MINUTE HISTORY LESSON

## Army Nurse Corps — forgotten heroes of World War II

Although 59,000 Americans served in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II, their contribution to victory is rarely cited in history books. The omission is important because nurses served everywhere — closer to the front lines than in any previous war, under fire in field hospitals and evacuation hospitals and on hospital trains and ships. Some were even flight nurses on medical transport planes.

The Army had fewer than 1,000 nurses on its rolls on Dec. 7, 1941, the day of Japan's strike on Pearl Harbor. Of these, 82 served in Hawaii at three medical facilities the morning of the attack. While Japanese dive-bombers and Zero fighters careened overhead, Tripler Army Hospital was overwhelmed with hundreds of casualties suffering from severe burns and shock.

Tripler's blood-spattered entrance stairs led to hallways where wounded men lay on the floor awaiting surgery. Army and Navy nurses and medics (enlisted men trained as orderlies) worked side by side with civilian nurses and doctors. As a steady stream of seriously wounded servicemen continued to arrive through the early afternoon, appalling shortages of medical supplies became apparent.

Army doctrine kept medical supplies under lock and key, and bureaucratic delays prevented the immediate replacement of quickly used-up stocks.

Working under tremendous pressure, medical personnel faced shortages of instruments, suture material and sterile supplies.

Doctors and nurses used cleaning rags as face masks and operated without

gloves. One survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack later said Army nurses were "the real heroes" as Americans reeled from the air attack in what President Franklin D. Roosevelt called a day of "infamy."

Equally difficult circumstances confronted Army nurses at Schofield Hospital and Hickam Army Air Field. The chief nurse at Hickam, 1st Lt. Annie G. Fox, became the first of many Army nurses to receive the Purple Heart.



Established by Gen. George Washington during the Revolutionary War, this decoration originally was for "outstanding performance of duty and meritorious acts of extraordinary fidelity." After 1932, however, the medal was usually restricted to those wounded or injured by enemy action.

Although unwounded, Fox received her medal for "her fine example of calmness, courage and leadership, which was of great benefit to the morale of all she came in contact with."

Although Army nurses were given officer ranks, most had medical but not military training until long after the United States was embroiled in the war. Only in July 1943 did Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, commanding general of Army Service Forces, authorize a formal four-week training course for all newly commissioned Army nurses.

The program was typical military fare. It stressed Army organization; military customs and courtesies; field sanitation; defense against air, chemical and mechanized attack; personnel administration; military requisitions and correspondence; and property responsibility. From July 1943 through September 1945 approximately 27,330 newly inducted nurses graduated from 15 Army training centers.

Nurses served in all theaters and faced many of the same dangers as combat troops — but many believe one of their finest moments came amid the exploding bombs and swirling smoke of the Pearl Harbor attack, which killed 2,403 people, most of them American servicemen, and wounded 1,104 others.

Casualties would surely have been higher but for the initiative of doctors and nurses who improvised on the scene.

Throughout the remainder of the war, fewer than 4 percent of the American soldiers who received medical care in the field or underwent evacuation died from wounds or disease — this extremely low post-injury mortality rate is a further tribute to the skill and dedication of the Army's nurses.

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