



# Smithsonian

*National Air and Space Museum*

## Mary White Gaunt Air Evacuation Nurse Materials

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Air and Space Museum Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Mary White Gaunt Air Evacuation Nurse Materials
<b>Date:</b>	1942-1946, 1960s
<b>Identifier:</b>	NASM.2022.0028
<b>Creator:</b>	Gaunt, Mary White
<b>Extent:</b>	0.39 Cubic feet (1 letter size document box)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Mary White Gaunt served in the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) during World War II as an air evacuation nurse was later a nurse at Wilford Hall medical facility at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where she cared for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut Alan Bean following surgery he had there. This collection consists of material relating to Gaunt's career including, military records, two small pocket notebooks where Gaunt kept notes on her missions, a scrapbook documenting Gaunt's time stationed in the United States, and a second scrapbook documenting her time stationed in England. The collection also includes a packet of material sent to Gaunt by astronaut Alan Bean following his post-surgery recovery at Wilford Hall medical facility at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where Gaunt was his nurse. The packet includes a letter from Bean to Gaunt thanking her for her excellent care; a signed photo of Bean; some photos of other astronauts; and some National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) publications.
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): NASM-9A19230-093A, Portrait of Mary White Gaunt in uniform.</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Melissa Furman, Gift, 2022, NASM.2022.0028.

### Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2022.

### Preferred Citation

Mary White Gaunt Air Evacuation Nurse Materials, NASM.2022.0028, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

No restrictions on access

## Conditions Governing Use

Material is subject to Smithsonian Terms of Use. Should you wish to use NASM material in any medium, please submit an Application for Permission to Reproduce NASM Material, available at [Permissions Requests](#).

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## Biographical / Historical

Mary White Gaunt served in the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) during World War II as an air evacuation nurse. She had worked as a night supervisor nurse at Midway Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota for a little over three years before joining the military in March 1941. Gaunt completed training at the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation and served in the United States including time in Colorado, at Camp Grant, Illinois, and as assistant chief nurse at Truax Field, Wisconsin. Gaunt was sent overseas in December 1943 where she was stationed at USAAF Station 489 (Royal Air Force Cottesmore), England and later transferred to USAAF Station 486 (Royal Air Force Greenham Common), England. During her service with the USAAF, which included assignment to the 811th and 816th Medical Air Evacuation Transportation Squadrons, Gaunt completed 99 combat sorties and 6 transatlantic air evacuation missions and participated in the following battles and campaigns: Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Gaunt separated from the USAAF in February 1946 at the rank of captain. In the 1960s, Gaunt was a nurse at Wilford Hall medical facility at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where she cared for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut Alan Bean following surgery he had there.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection consists of approximately 0.39 cubic feet of material relating to Mary White Gaunt and her World War II service in the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) as an air evacuation nurse. Types of materials in the collection include copies of her military records, two small pocket notebooks where Gaunt kept notes on her missions, a scrapbook documenting Gaunt's time stationed in the United States, and a second scrapbook documenting her time stationed in England. The scrapbooks contain mainly captioned photographs, but they also include some news clippings and ephemera. The collection also includes a packet of material sent to Gaunt by astronaut Alan Bean following his post-surgery recovery at Wilford Hall medical facility at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, where Gaunt was his nurse. The packet includes a letter from Bean to Gaunt thanking her for her excellent care; a signed photo of Bean inscribed, "To Mary Gaunt -- The best nurse ever...anywhere;" some photos of other astronauts; and some National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) publications.

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## Arrangement

Collection is arranged by type of material.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics, Military
- Military records -- 20th century -- United States
- Nurses
- Women in aeronautics

World War, 1939-1945

Types of Materials:

Correspondence

Notebooks

Scrapbooks

## Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">[Military Records]</a>
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">[Mission Notebooks]</a>
Box 1, Folder 2, Item 1	<p>NASM-9A19274: <a href="#">Women in Aviation and Space Science, Military; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Personnel; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General</a></p> <p>Notes: Small notebook kept by Mary White Gaunt documenting her missions as an air evacuation nurse in the US Army Air Forces during World War II. Details for each mission include the aircraft type and serial number, pilot, arrival and departure information, passengers, supplies carried, and other notes. Covers the dates June 7, 1944 to November 9, 1944. Redacted on page 5 to obscure Gaunt's service number.</p> <p>Note: Blank pages in the original notebook have not been digitally reproduced. Any gaps in numbering are due to their omission.</p>
Box 1, Folder 2, Item 2	<p>NASM-9A19275: <a href="#">Women in Aviation and Space Science, Military; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Personnel; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General</a></p> <p>Notes: Small notebook kept by Mary White Gaunt documenting her missions as an air evacuation nurse in the US Army Air Forces during World War II. Details for each mission include the aircraft type and serial number, pilot, arrival and departure information, passengers, supplies carried, and other notes. Covers the dates April 5, 1945 to August 6, 1945.</p> <p>Note: Blank pages in the original notebook have not been digitally reproduced. Any gaps in numbering are due to their omission.</p>
Box 1, Folder 3	<p><a href="#">[Scrapbook - United States Service]</a></p> <p>Notes: Blank pages in original scrapbook have not been digitally reproduced in slideshow. Any gaps in numbering are due to their omission. Images have been rotated to the orientation of the page contents for easier viewing.</p>
Box 1, Folder 4	<a href="#">[Scrapbook - Overseas Service]</a>
Box 1, Folder 5	<a href="#">[Alan Bean Correspondence]</a>