

**Haddon Township  
Women in the  
Military During  
World War II  
Biographical Information**



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## INTRODUCTION

As the volunteer director of education and community outreach for the Haddon Township Historical Society, I have researched the histories of many local people and properties to share on our social media pages or to answer an individual request. This project was different. Researching Haddon Township women who lived in Haddon Township in the 1940s and who served in the military during World War II was a challenge I took on myself with the intent of highlighting their stories during Women's History Month.

How did I identify these women? There was no list in any national or local site that was sorted by residential address. I needed their NAMES to move forward. Fortunately, we had a clear black & white photo of the Haddon Township Honor Roll erected in 1943. I discovered that I could enlarge the photo and actually read most of the approximately 900 names on it. And, that's when I saw those women's first names -- Anne, Sylvia, Ruth, etc.! From that point, I used Ancestry.com and Newspapers.com to verify their addresses and build their biographies.

Finding photographs of these women was equally challenging. Many of them attended Collingswood High School, and Collingswood Library has a collection of Collingswood High School yearbooks. Collingswood Library also has preserved photo albums of World War II veterans. In among all the photos of men there are, fortunately, some women. And, last but not least, were the cherished photos provided by the proud daughters of these military veterans.

The Haddon Township women who served in the military during World War II were patriotic, adventurous women who enlisted in the Armed Forces to "do their bit." They brought their skills as trained nurses and teachers, telephone operators, clerks, and secretaries. Not only did they care for the wounded and the dying, they also kept the military supplied, fed, trained, and kept the all-important lines of communication open.

According to the National Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, VA, there were more than 350,000 American women who joined the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. With great pride, the small community of 1940s Haddon Township saw (at least) 14 of their daughters answer the call to serve.

*Sandra White-Grear  
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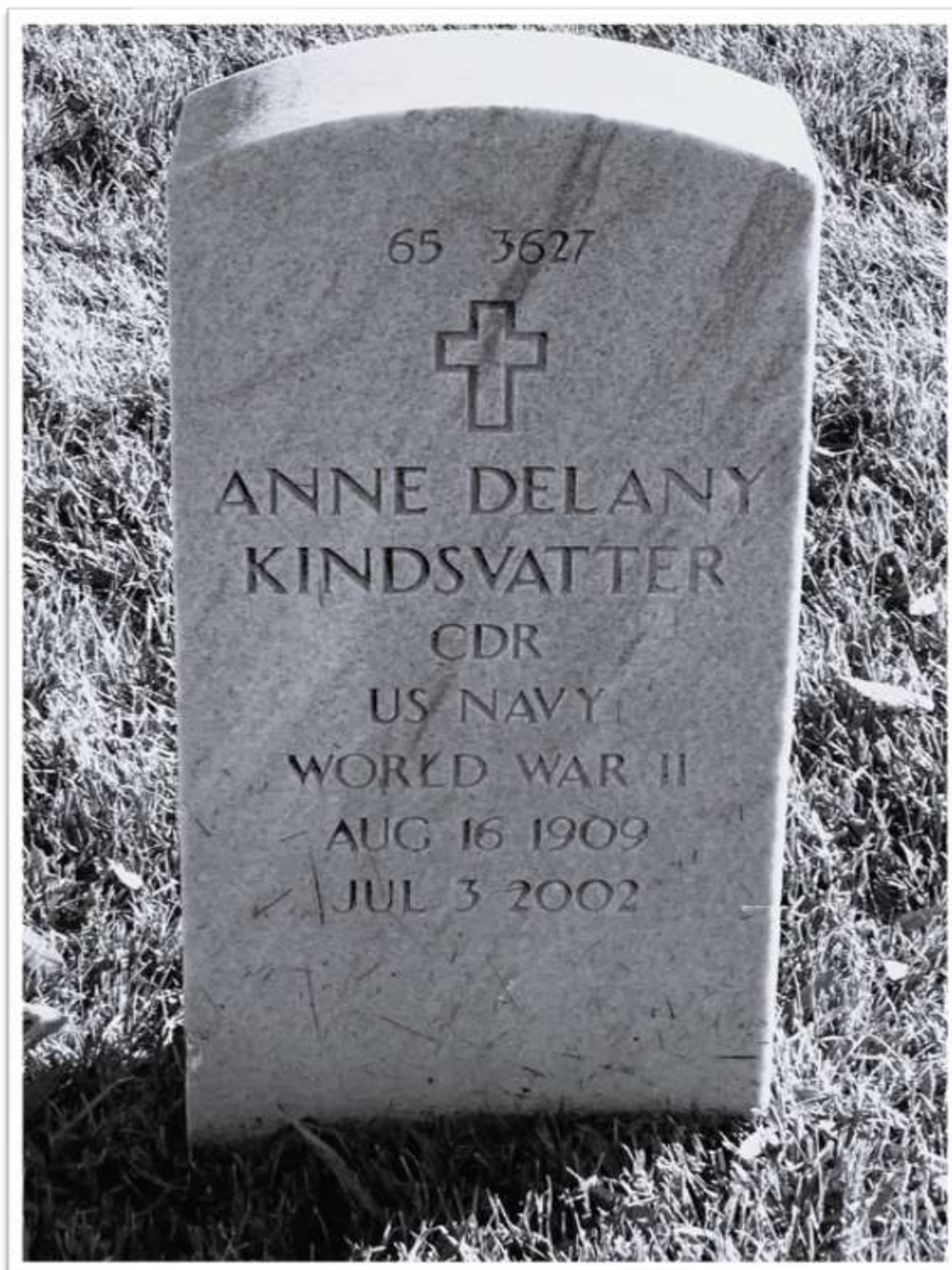


**Sp (TR) 1/c Charlotte P. Craig-Bart**

**Sp (TR) 1/c Charlotte P. Craig-Bart (b. 1923; d. 2024)**  
**U.S. Coast Guard SPAR**

Charlotte Pearl Craig-Bart, the daughter of Charles M. Craig and Florence May Kiger-Craig and step-daughter of Arthur W. Knecht, was a life-long resident of Westmont, New Jersey. Charlotte graduated from Collingswood High School in the Class of 1942. She was a star athlete in swimming, basketball, hockey and tennis. On October 24, 1942 she married William Conrad Bart at Holy Trinity Church in Collingswood. At the time of their marriage, Charlotte was living with her mother and step-father at 19 Wynnewood Avenue in Haddon Township and working at Campbell Soup Company. In 1944 the rule that wives could not serve in the same branch of service as their husbands was lifted (though husbands still had to sign their wife's papers so that she was allowed to serve!). Charlotte enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in February 1944 where she was a member of the transportation unit and achieved the rank of Specialist (TR) 1st Class in only 18 months of training and duty in Palm Beach Florida. She served in Charleston Harbor and Cape May. She transported officers around in jeeps, trucks, and even duck boats. Charlotte was the first woman in our area to serve alongside her husband. She was honorably discharged in April 1946. Following her military service Charlotte went on to raise three children. In 1966 Charlotte was inducted into the Collingswood High School Hall of Fame for her athletic accomplishments. Throughout her life Charlotte was an avid swimmer and diver, often working as a lifeguard as well as a lifeguard instructor. She also excelled in field hockey and basketball. In 1975 she began a career in nursing, as an LPN, until she retired. After retirement Charlotte spent her time volunteering with the Coast Guard Combat Veterans Organization, the American Legion, and the Westmont Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary.





**Commander Anne L. Delany**

**Commander Anne L. Delany (b. 1909; d. 2002)**  
**U.S. Navy Nurses Corp**

Haddon Township resident Anne Loretta Delany spent 27 years in the United States Navy serving her country, yet little is recorded about her, except for a few facts gathered online and in her obituary. Here is what we have gathered:

Anne was born on August 16, 1909 in New Jersey. She was the daughter of Navy Commander James J. Delaney and Mary Murphy-Delaney. While living in Haddon Township, the family lived at 302 Cuthbert Blvd. They were members of Holy Saviour parish in Westmont. Anne entered military service on January 5, 1942. She was a nurse in the Navy Nurses Corp. She served in combat services during World War II, and remained in service in the Naval Reserves through the Korea and Vietnam wars, rising to the rank of Commander. She retired on August 16, 1969. After her active military duty had finished, Anne "Nancy" Delaney was appointed school nurse in Haddon Township in 1946. In 1970 she married Victor H. Kindsvatter, a widower and a career Naval Officer in the medical services. They lived in Moorestown, NJ. Anne was active in the American Legion and VFW posts in Moorestown, a life member of the Reserve Officers Association, a member of the Military Order of World Wars, and the Nurses Corp Association of Montana. Commander Anne Delany-Kindsvatter died on July 3, 2002 at the age of 92. She was buried with Full Military Naval Honors at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. Neither Anne nor Victor had any children. Anne "Nancy" Delaney's name was listed on the Haddon Township Honor Roll.



**Yeoman Dorothy Edwards**



**Yeoman Dorothy Edwards (b. 1920; d. 1974)**  
**U.S. Coast Guard SPAR**

Dorothy Edwards, daughter of William R. Edwards and Laura Fitzer-Edwards, lived in the corner house at Crystal Lake and Park Avenues in Haddon Township when she enlisted in 1943 in the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS). She had attended Collingswood High School and was working as a secretary at the time of her enlistment. SPAR is an acronym of the Coast Guard motto "Semper Paratus - Always Ready." The Coast Guard Women's Reserve was established on November 23, 1942. There were over 10,000 women who volunteered for the SPARS during World War II. Dorothy Edwards received her basic training at the former Palm Beach Biltmore Hotel in Florida. More than 7,000 women trained for 6 weeks at this facility over the course of its 18 months of operation. The Biltmore was transformed from a 430-room luxury hotel into a more austere military campus with housing, classrooms, and dining facilities. With Dorothy's prior secretarial skills, she likely received training to work in a Coast Guard administrative office. Dorothy Edwards married Hugh Buchanan (USN) in October 1944 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Collingswood. Dorothy Edwards-Buchanan died on February 12, 1974. Dorothy Edwards was listed on the Haddon Township World War II Honor Roll.



**Lieutenant Colonel Rita A. Ficchi**

**Lieutenant Colonel Rita A. Ficchi (b. 1916; d. 2004)**  
**U.S. Army WAC**

Rita Agnes Ficchi was born and raised in Philadelphia, the daughter of Francesco and Philomena Ficchi. She received a BA in English in 1937 and an MA in Economics in 1941 from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Arts and Sciences. She was an industrial and social researcher for Curtis Publishing Company and the University of Pennsylvania. Some time around 1942 she lived with her widowed mother at 423 Cuthbert Road in Haddon Township. With the outbreak of World War II, Rita Ficchi joined the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps)\* in July 1942. After 6 weeks of Officers Training School she was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, ranking 37 out of a class of 250. She was assigned as a training officer. Rita A. Ficchi was promoted to Captain in December 1942. She was a member of the second graduating class in the WAAC. Captain Ficchi's promotion was described as "epochal" because she was among the first promotions given to WAAC officers, and the first time in the history of the country that women wore an Army captain insignia. She was assigned to the Office of the Director of WAC training in Fort Des Moines, Iowa and travelled all over the country setting up WAC training programs and performing inspections. By the time Rita was discharged from the Army in 1946, she had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Rita Ficchi's name was placed on the Haddon Township Honor Roll. Rita Ficchi married George T. Price, Jr. in 1949. When her children were school age, she obtained her teaching credentials and taught sixth grade at Thomas Paine Elementary School in Cherry Hill from 1963 until her retirement in 1979. Rita Ficchi-Price was a member of the AAUW in both New Jersey and Maryland (where she had moved after retirement). She died on December 2, 2004 and is buried in New Saint Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr, NJ.

\* The Women's Army Corp (WAC) was the women's branch of the United States Army. It was created as an auxiliary unit, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corp (WAAC) on 15 May 1942, and converted to an active-duty status in the U.S. Army as the WAC on 1 July 1943. The WAC was disbanded in 1978 and all units were integrated with the male units.



**Corporal Ruth H. Gottesman**



**Corporal Ruth H. Gottesman (b. 1917; d. 2000)**  
**U.S. Army WAC**

Ruth H. Gottesman was born May 17, 1917, the daughter of Joseph Gottesman and Rose Neiman. Prior to moving to Haddon Township, the family lived in Philadelphia. She attended Collingswood High School, graduating in the Class of 1934. In the 1940 census, Ruth is recorded as living with her parents at 231 Haddon Avenue in Haddon Township. Her father's occupation is grocery store proprietor, and both Ruth and her mother also list their occupations as saleswomen in the grocery store. (Ruth's brothers Milton and Edward later owned Gottesman's Delicatessen & Liquor store at the same 231 Haddon Avenue location.) Ruth Gottesman enlisted in the Womens Army Corp (WAC) on March 8, 1943. In 1943 Corporal Gottesman was a radio technician and engineering assistant in the flight office at Bainbridge Army Air Field (Georgia). Ruth Gottesman married Max Kurland in 1946. By 1950 they were living in Cape May, NJ. Ruth Gottesman Kurland died in Cape May on January 8, 2000.



**Major Sylvia E. Hendrickson**

**Major Sylvia E. Hendrickson (b. 1919; d. 1997)**  
**U.S. Army Nurses Corp**

Sylvia Elizabeth Hendrickson, daughter of Norwegian immigrants Sivert and Linda (nee Benzen) Hendrickson, was born in Haddon Township on May 10, 1919. The family resided at 403 Locust Avenue in Haddon Township. Sylvia attended Collingswood High School, graduating in the Class of 1937. She then enrolled in the Thomas Jefferson Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia. After graduating as an R.N. in 1942 she entered the Army Nurses Corp. Sylvia Hendrickson served overseas duty in Africa and Italy during World War II. After the war, she continued to serve in military hospitals in Germany and various places in the United States. In 1948 she was one of many nurses recruited by the Red Cross in the fight against infantile paralysis (Polio). She served in Camp Monroe, Charlotte, NC. With 25 years of active service in the United States Army Nurses Corp, Major Sylvia E. Hendrickson retired from Ft. Huachuca and resided in Tucson, Arizona where she continued to live until her death in 1997. She is buried in South Lawn Memorial Cemetery, Section 14, Row 8, in Tucson Arizona. She had no children and was survived by her twin brother Walter and several nieces and nephews.

NOTE: On February 26, 1944 Congress passed a bill that granted military rank to Army and Navy nurses to last for the duration of the war plus 6 months. New laws in 1947 established the Army, Navy, and Air Force Nurse Corps on a permanent basis, giving nurses such as Sylvia Hendrickson regular commissions on exactly the same terms as male officers.

**Aviation Cadet Edith S. (nee Williams) Heitz-Halligan (b. 1900; d. 1998)**  
**U.S. Army WAC**

Edith S. Heitz did an unusual thing on November 27, 1942. As a grandmother, age 42, she enlisted in the WAAC. She served as an Aviation Cadet. At the time Edith was divorced, living at 134 Haddon Avenue in Haddon Township, working as a waitress at the Plaza Hotel in Camden, and had no dependent children. After taking her oath at a swearing in ceremony held in Camden, Edith reported to the WAAC training school in Des Moines, Iowa. We do not know the specifics of Edith's duties as an Aviation Cadet in the WAAC. However, we do know that historically women who held this rank often held support roles in communications, radio, switchboard and teletype operators, mechanics, clerks, and food services. Edith, born on November 18, 1900, was the daughter of James St. Clair Williams and Louise Young-Williams. The family moved from Philadelphia to Haddon Township shortly after Edith's birth. The 1910 census records them living at 89 Utica Avenue. The 1915 New Jersey state census records the family living on Cooper Street and shows Edith as a student attending the Westmont school. Edith's father was the former president of the Westmont National Bank, a tax collector in Haddon Township, and a member of the Westmont Fire Company No. 1. Her parents later moved to 308 Cooper Street. Edith was married twice, first to George F. Heitz (divorced some time before 1942), and later to Joseph F. Halligan, who she married in 1954. She lived with her husband at 201 Ardmore Avenue in Haddon Township. Joseph F. Halligan died in 1961. When Edith Halligan died on June 7, 1998 she was a resident of Rohrer Towers. She was a member of the Westmont United Methodist Church and a lifetime member of the Collingswood Chapter of Deborah Hospital Foundation.





**First Lieutenant Ruth E. Love**

**First Lieutenant Ruth E. Love (b. 1919; d. 2011)**  
**U.S. Army Nurses Corp**

Lieutenant Ruth E. Love served in the United States Army Nurse Corp (ANC) during World War II. Born on May 22, 1919 in Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of Oliver M. Love, a public school teacher, and Etta Schmeltz-Love. The family home was located at 203 Chestnut Street in Haddon Township. Ruth graduated from Collingswood High School in the Class of 1937. She went on to graduate as a Registered Nurse from Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing. After her enlistment in the Army Nurse Corp in November 1942 she was stationed at Tilton General Hospital in Fort Dix, NJ. Lieutenant Love was then transferred to Texas and later to California. In June 1944 she was sent to New Guinea and Hollandia. In a letter written to her parents and described in a June 13, 1944 edition of the Courier Post, Lieutenant Love recalled being transported in an amphibious jeep cutting through the jungle. She went on to write that New Guinean people built a recreation center for the nurses which was draped with old parachute material. Her service in New Guinea/Hollandia lasted for one year (1944-45), after which she was stationed at Thomas England General Hospital in Atlantic City, NJ. This rehabilitation and convalescent hospital was set up in the former Haddon Hall Hotel (later the Resorts Casino), to treat sick and wounded members of the military. At that time, it was the largest hospital in the world with a 2,000 patient capacity. Ruth E. Love married Captain Charles A. Nordell on August 1, 1945 at the Bible Presbyterian Church in Collingswood followed by a reception at the Walt Whitman Hotel in Camden. Ruth E. Love-Nordell died on August 1, 2011 and is buried at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. She had 8 children and was married for 66 years. The family resided in Texas. Ruth E. Love's name was on the Haddon Township World War II Honor Roll.

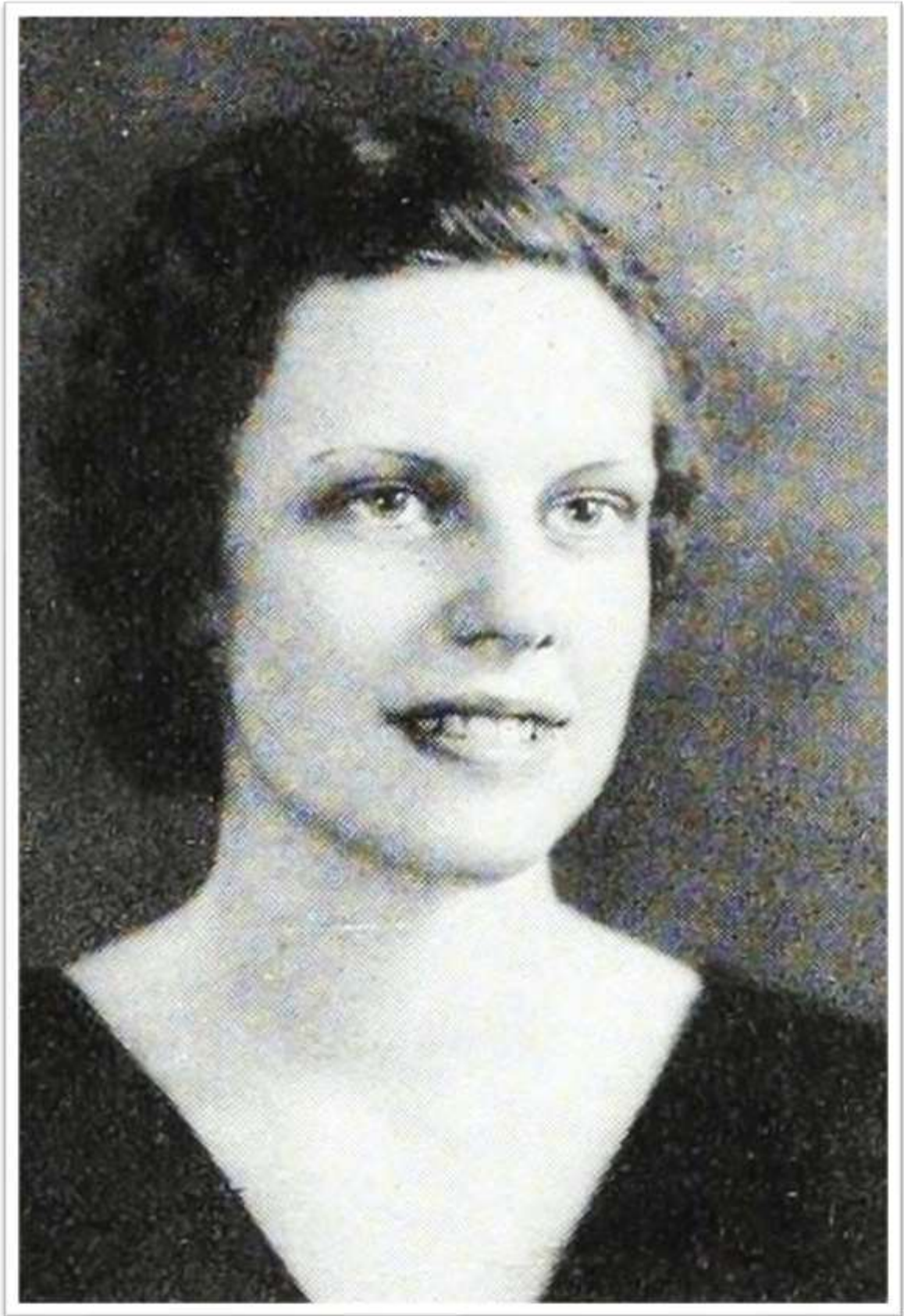


**Lieutenant Mildred MacDonald**

**Lieutenant Mildred MacDonald (b. 1918; d. 1982)**  
**U.S. Army Nurses Corp**

Mildred MacDonald, daughter of Antrim and Elizabeth MacDonald, was born in Philadelphia, PA on August 23, 1918. Sometime between 1920-1930 the family moved to 222 Guilford Avenue in the new "Bluebird" section of Haddon Township. Mildred graduated from Hahnemann Hospital School of Nursing in Philadelphia. Lieutenant MacDonald enlisted in the Army Nurses Corp on November 1, 1942. She served overseas in France and Germany. She married Captain Paul Joseph Clement, Jr. on February 3, 1945 in Metz, France. They both served in Germany with the Medical Administrative Corps. Lieutenant Mildred MacDonald was honorably discharged on August 11, 1945. Mildred and Paul eventually made their home with their 2 daughters in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mildred MacDonald Clement died on November 21, 1982 and is buried at Garden of Memories Cemetery in Metairie, Louisiana.





**Ensign Mabel Lee Maier**

**Ensign Mabel Lee Maier (b. 1912; d. 1979)**  
**U.S. Navy WAVE**

Mabel Lee Maier, daughter of Edward Maier and Mabel Morris-Maier, was born on October 31, 1912. Their home was located at 215 Fern Avenue in Haddon Township. Mabel graduated from Glassboro Normal School in 1933 and taught in Camden public schools before her enlistment in the WAVES (Women's Auxiliary Volunteer Emergency Service) on June 29, 1943. Mabel Maier was among the first women to receive WAVE Naval Officer Training at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Upon graduating from the 10-week Officers Training courses Ensign Maier was assigned to work in Washington, D.C. She was honorably discharged on July 1, 1944. The Naval Officers Training Program at Smith began in 1942. It was designed to train women for administrative work in naval procurement or for teaching posts at one of four WAVES training schools. Smith College was the official training ground for the country's first women naval officers. Between 1942 and 1945 thousands of enlisted women trained at Smith College. All were highly educated and had civilian work that would benefit the Navy. Mable Lee Maier married Arnold K. Borden in 1946. Borden worked for the Department of the Navy in Naval Intelligence in Washington, D.C. After Borden died in 1950, Mabel married Thomas E. Phipps. They lived at 829 Whann Avenue in McLean, Virginia. Mabel died on February 12, 1979 in McLean, Fairfax County, VA. She had no children. Mabel L. Maier's name was on the Haddon Township World War II Honor Roll.

**Pfc Marjorie A. McKillip (b. 1920; d. 1983)**  
**U.S. Army WAC**

Marjorie McKillip was born on October 11, 1920 in Vineland, NJ, the daughter of Rufus Smith McKillip and Marjorie (“Anna”) Sengstacken. In the 1940 census she was recorded as living with her aunt Ida Irene Altone-Schmidt and uncle Elwood Schmidt and their two daughters at 20 Center Street in Haddon Township (this is the building that was the former Rowandtown Schoolhouse/Methodist Church that was later renovated into private residences 20 & 22 Center St.). In 1940 Marjorie was working as a saleswoman in a department store. Marjorie McKillip enlisted in the WAAC on December 8, 1942. Her military enlistment record notes her civilian occupation as telephone operator. Marjorie McKillip progressed to a WAC squadron at the Advanced Pilot School of the Army Air Force training command center at Foster Field, Texas. She was sent there after her assignment at Lowry Field in Denver, Colorado where she attended the Army Air Force technical school. Marjorie McKillip received her discharge from the Army on November 23, 1945. She married Jeffrey S. Friend on October 11, 1945 in Queens, NY. They were later divorced. Our information indicates that she later worked as a secretary for the Henrico County Police Department. Marjorie McKillip-Friend died at age 62 in Richmond, Virginia. She is buried at Westhampton Memorial Park, Richmond, Virginia. There were no family members listed in her obituary. Marjorie McKillip’s name appeared on the Haddon Township World War II Veterans Honor Roll.



**First Lieutenant Lee Carolyn Ring**



**First Lieutenant Lee Carolyn Ring (b. 1919; d. 1990)**  
**U.S. Army Nurses Corp**

During World War II Lieutenant Lee Carolyn Ring was an Army nurse in a hospital behind the front lines. She had received her commission of second lieutenant and was ordered to active duty from the fifth service command headquarters in Columbus, Ohio in February 1944. (Her official papers note her enlistment date as March 1, 1944.) In her memories shared with her daughter Patricia, she recalled being so close to the front lines that she could hear the bombing as she worked on the wounded men being brought into the hospital. During her enlistment, Lieutenant Ring was stationed in Germany, England, and France. She was promoted to First Lieutenant on August 1, 1945. While still in the military in 1945 First Lieutenant L. Carolyn Ring quietly married Second Lieutenant John G. Rickard, an Army Medic who had brought wounded men to the hospital where Lieutenant Ring was stationed. Lieutenant Lee Carolyn Ring was honorably discharged on November 9, 1945. John Rickard was a Westmont resident who grew up on Cambridge Avenue. John and Carolyn made their family home on Emerald Avenue. L. Carolyn Ring did not have an easy childhood. She was born in 1919 in Wheeling, West Virginia. Her mother died a couple of days after her birth, and as her father was unable to raise 7 children on his own, some children went into an orphanage. Carolyn was adopted by a local doctor and his wife. Dr. Phillip Lee Ring was a respected physician in a clinic in Bellaire, Ohio who had treated her when she had pneumonia. Lee Carolyn Ring graduated in 1938 from Bellaire High School in Bellaire Ohio. She attended nursing school at Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital in Parkersburg, West Virginia. She worked with her adopted father and brother as a surgical team until the war broke out and she was called into service.



**Sergeant Norma C. Sharp**

**Sergeant Norma C. Sharp (b. 1921; d. 2003)**  
**U. S. Navy WAVE**

Norma Clare Sharp was the daughter of Harold R. Sharp and Eleanor D. Garvey-Sharp. In the 1940 census the family is recorded as living at 127 Virginia Avenue in Haddon Township. Norma was in the Class of 1938 at Collingswood High School. In 1940 she was working as a clerk in a department store. But that didn't last long because on March 17, 1943 Norma Sharp enlisted in the Special Services Unit, 4th Reserve, United States Navy. Private Sharp received her initial training at Hunter College, NY, and her WAVE technical training at Georgia State College for Women. By 1944 Sergeant Sharp was with the Headquarters Squadron of the United States Marine Corps in Edenton, NC. In 1945 she was assigned to the Aviation Women's Reserve Squadron-13, US Marine Corps Air Station, Edenton, NC. Sergeant Sharp was honorably discharged in 1945. She returned to her Haddon Township home and worked as a secretary at a soup factory (presumably Campbell Soup in Camden, NJ). Norma Sharp married Chester E. Becker, Jr. in 1959 at Holy Saviour Church. The couple resided in Spotswood, NJ. They had 3 children. Norma died in October 2003. She is buried with her husband in Holy Cross Burial Park, East Brunswick, NJ. Norma Sharp was listed on the Haddon Township World War II Honor Roll.



**Yeoman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Norma June Strong**

**Yeoman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Norma June Strong (b. 1924; d. 2001)**  
**U. S. Navy WAVE**

Norma June Strong, the daughter of Walter Strong and Georgia Jett-Strong, lived at 18 West Walnut Avenue in Haddon Township, NJ in the 1940s. She graduated from Collingswood High School in 1942. She entered Hunter College (Bronx, NY) on August 24, 1944 then transferred to Oklahoma A & M College in October 1944. On December 22, 1944 Norma June Strong graduated from Yeoman's School with the rank of S1/c. On January 2, 1944 Yeoman Strong reported for duty at Potomac River Naval Command. On March 1, 1944 she was promoted to Y3/c. Yeoman Norma June Strong received her Honorable Discharge on October 18, 1945 having served 14 months in the U. S. Navy. Norma married Ernest H. Roback of Audubon, NJ, also a Navy Veteran of WWII. Norma June Strong-Roback died in Charlotte, NC on January 5, 2001.