

DAILY IOWEAN CENTERVILLE
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ND

“Nurse Heroine Of World War II Leaves City For Special Work”

This is the factual report of Lt. Joan Brown, a Centerville native, who served as a nurse in World War II. Lt. Brown recently returned home and will assume the study of anesthetist in Peoria, Illinois. The article relates how quietly this heroine returned but what a great impact she had during the war, winning five battle stars.

Nurse Heroine Of World War I Leaves City For Special Work

LT. JOAN BROWN WILL STUDY AT PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Her name is Joan Brown. Her rating at the close of World War II was that of a Second Lieutenant. When the war ended she came home to Centerville, where her mother, Mrs. Eva Brown and her sister, Mrs. Ada Simmons, nurse at St. Joseph's hospital, reside. With no fanfare or special recognition she went quietly about the business of being a staff nurse at the Centerville hospital. Those who know her, know that if there is anything that she does not like, it is special recognition. However no one from this county deserves more of it than she does.

In fact a great many people who read about her fearless and splendid conduct under fire in World War I did not know that she had quietly slipped back into civilian life in this city, until she left this week to take up special work under the G.I. Bill of rights. She has gone to St. Francis hospital at Peoria, Illinois to specialize as an anaesthetist. This calls for a year of exacting study and achievement.

First Lieutenant Brown received national honor and publicity when she attained five battle stars during World War I. And it doesn't take much inquiring a-

round to learn that a nurse with five battle stars is a very rare person indeed but she also rates the highest respect of any service man or civilian.

Miss Brown was "in the news" internationally when she with a group of other nurses, braved imminent death to stay at a hospital in Germany, that was marked for annihilation by the Nazis. Although it was known that the hospital was in the path of destruction she stayed on and aided in complete evacuation. Less than 10 minutes after her work was completed the hospital was no more. The Nazi war birds had literally blown it off the face of the earth.

Under Fire

Five different times First Lieutenant Brown was under fire. She knew what it was to work with shells dropping around and with bombs whining down. Her name appeared in different international war dispatches that made her bravery legend. Gordon Gammack, of Des Moines, acting as war correspondent wrote of her heroism. And so this nurse, who fulfilled the highest traditions of the U.S. Military forces and the Florence Nightingale pledge came home so quietly that hardly anyone knew that she was here. She served as well in peace as in war and as unselfishly. Now as she goes to Peoria to take her specialist work she has the best wishes of a host of friends here and everywhere.