YOUNGEST and largest of the women’s uni-
formed services, the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps has
made nursing history in the brief span of its ex-
sistence. Created by the Bolton Act, passed unan-
imously by Congress on March 31, 1943 (Public
Law 78-293), the Corps includes more than 242,000
women between the ages of 17 and 35 who enrolled
to help meet the emergency caused by the short-
age of nurses during the armed services. Graduates under the Cadet Nurse program pledged themselves to remain in essential nursing throughout the war and many chose to go into the Army or Navy Nurse Corps on completion of training.

Cadet Nurses were urged to consider, too, that the demand for their services would grow after the war, especially in the fields of public health and industrial care. Nursing will play a tremen-
dous role in the rehabilitation of tomorrow’s

Above: Calm and dependable in emergencies, a student nurse thereof a nature for a Red Cross nurse.

world, Miss Lucile Petey, Director of the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps, pointed out. The appeal of the program was amply proved by the fact that the Corps exceeded its recruitment quota for the two consecutive years of its existence. That expanded student enrollment per-
mitted the release of thousands of graduate nurses from civilian hospitals for military services, as well as providing a pool from which military and civilian health agencies might draw.

According to the American Hospital Association, the Corps prevented what would have been a trage-
dy of major proportion—the collapse of civilian

nursing service. Student nurses, $3 per cent of whom were Cadets, were giving nursing care to 80 per cent of the patient care in all hospitals with schools of nurs-
ing, according to figures released September, 1941. The Corps provided an accelerated study pro-
gram of 24 to 30 months, plus a six-month Senior Cadet period during which student nurses assumed the duties of graduate nurses under supervision. Senior Cadets remained in their home hospitals or were released from their schools for service with the Federal Public Health Service—Army, Navy, Veterans’ Adminis-
tration, Public Health Service and Office of Indian Affairs—and to civilian hospitals caring for civilians without schools of nursing.

Cadet Nurse study and care of a profession in more than 1,000 schools of nursing. Carefully organized and administered by the Division of Nurse Education of the U. S. Public Health Service, Cadet Nurse service was wide.

nurses graduated more than 28,000 nurses by Oc-
tober 1, 1945. All of them were serving, either in military or civilian, where their expert skills were desperately needed. Bound only by a moral pledge, Cadet nurses patriotically met their obligations and, as an investment for future national health, are expected to pay dividends by staffing expanding hospitals and 

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