

## **SAMPLE**

**Name:** Dorothy Knight Smith

**Branch of Service:** Cadet Nurse Corps

**Age entering service:** 19

**Discharged:** 21

**Service Rank and Rating:** Cadet Nurse

### **Assignments:**

I was a Nurse at Cushing General Hospital in Framingham, MA.

### **Life before WW II (family, hobbies, schooling):**

The depression forced my dad off a small farm in Vermont. Grain prices were higher than the price of milk. We moved to Framingham, MA, where my father worked for another farmer who owned a dairy farm. What a culture shock – country to city, farmhouse to apartment house!

Before the war in Europe began I was in high school. I took home economics and learned to make most of my clothes. After school I did odd jobs. The money went to my family to help put food on the table. I knew what it was to be hungry.

We never owned a car – we walked. We could not pay our electric bill so a meter was installed under the house to run the refrigerator. We put quarters in.

Dad had a big vegetable garden and I helped mother can. My brother and I would walk the railroad tracks to pick up coal. When we gathered enough, Dad built a fire. Everyone worked.

### **An experience as an example of the impact WW II had on you:**

I went into nurses training and joined the Cadet Nurse Corps in 1943, “Helping my country win the war.” I worked at Cushing General Hospital, a large military hospital in Framingham, MA.

I saw many tragic injuries that would be forever. The tank injuries were always burn cases. The paraplegics were saddest of all. I would go off duty to write letters for the patients and give them shampoos. So many young men were crippled forever.

