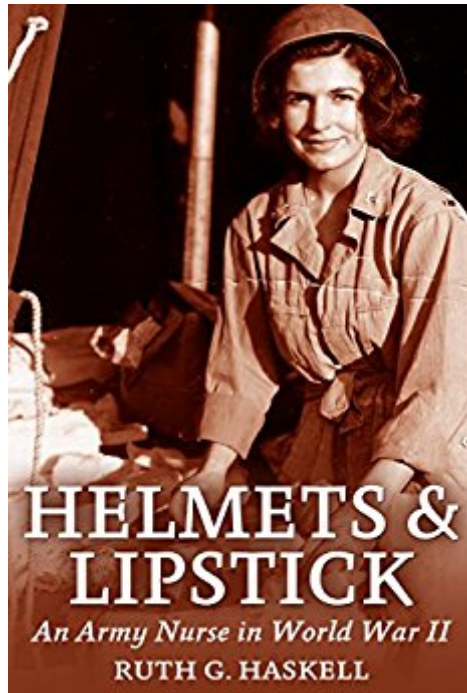




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# Helmet And Lipstick: An Army Nurse In World War Two



## Synopsis

Helmets and Lipstick, first published in 1944, is a first-hand account by Second Lieutenant Ruth Haskell of her service in the Army Nurse Corps as a nurse during World War Two. Of note was her unit's presence during the Operation Torch invasion of North Africa in late 1942, where the nurses and ground troops were under heavy enemy fire. Haskell's wit, humor, and dedication to her work and those in her care are evident throughout this enjoyable, informative book.

## Book Information

File Size: 570 KB

Print Length: 163 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Uncommon Valor Press (December 17, 2014)

Publication Date: December 17, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00R6QFU4W

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #89,922 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #31 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > Military History > Veterans #96 in Books > History > Military > United States > Veterans #345 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Military > World War II

## Customer Reviews

Army nursing in World War II is only now being given the attention it deserves. Of the books written about the African and European theaters of War two books stand out: "And if I Perish," and "GI Nightingales." Both are excellent, "must reads" for anyone interested in the role America's military women played in WWII. As a former Army nurse and Vietnam Veteran I cherish my hard copies of both books. Because they are over-views of nurses' parts in actions like Torch (North Africa) or Overlord (Normandy) both lack the "I was there" immediacy of a memoir. "Helmets and Lipstick" filled in those blanks very nicely, whether Haskell was writing about endless meals of C Rations, the danger of being too close to enemy lines, or trying her darndest to be a GOOD NURSE even in the

most appalling circumstances. Haskell's joy at being able to find a special treat for men on Christmas Day, her tenderness toward her patients, her love of dancing and desire for cigarettes in spite of black out remind readers that soldiers are people first. By my calculations Ruth Haskell would be over 100 if she were still alive. I wish I could meet her--and her compatriots.

I eagerly embraced this book because two of my aunts served a lot more time than Ruth as WWII army nurses in even more challenging conditions. One aunt died prematurely due to wartime exposure to those conditions. On that basis, all Lt. Haskell writes is true, and grim enough--but it is a little too glib. I am considering that the book was written in 1944, and embodies a certain propaganda slant and political correctness of the time. With all these caveats, it is a good book and my reading time was edifying and well-spent. On a Kindle presentation note, the book is riddled with transcription errors to the point of distraction. Die and Lie are substituted for 'the' many times, contractions have no apostrophe, numerals appear in place of vowels every once in awhile, etc. Even so, my daughter and I agree that it was worth the plowing ahead, and we would love to know where her postwar career took her.

An excellent read awaits anyone opening this story of tremendous bravery and comaraderie. I was gifted with the company of this small band of nurses, going they knew not where but facing it together and with spirit. It was amazing and on my read again list.

This is an interesting slice of life of a WW2 US Army nurse who serves in North Africa in that conflict. It's pretty focused on the vagaries of transport, with little detail about the actual nurse's medical service or personal life - there's some general stuff but a lot of the book is devoted to the Army moving the women from place to place to place... hurry up and wait at its best. It's short and provides entertainment.

A riveting story of a World War II nurse, her training and her serving in a battle front hospital in North Africa. It is truthful and sometimes funny as she relates the conditions in which they lived and worked. Heartily recommended.

Well written (though could use some better editing for spelling) story of the brave, compassionate nurses on the line during war. A good reminder of what our men and women really face during times of fighting.

I liked the book but didn't like the way she ended the story with her going by plane for treatment. She never mentioned what happened to the nurses and soldiers left behind. I feel the story was incomplete

Interesting look into battlefield nursing during the north Africa campaign, but multiple typos made reading difficult. "Moslems" instead of "Muslims", "he" instead of "the", "tm" instead of "I'm". And some I have no idea what was supposed to say. I'm not sure if these are proofread after converting to e-book, but this one really would have benefited from one. Overall, the experiences she shares opens a small window into what war is like for the unsung heroes of war, the nurses and doctors who try to make the wounded and dying comfortable.

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