**Transcript – Ivy Pritchard, British Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Nursing Service**

**All narration and voices are provided by actors.**

**NARRATOR**

During the Second World War, women were not permitted to join the British army in combat roles. However, thousands of women still volunteered to help the war effort in other ways.

Ivy Pritchard joined the Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service in 1943 and soon found herself near the front in India, tending to wounded soldiers.

**IVY**

“I was posted almost immediately and set out via Calcutta and Dum Dum airport as far as Chittagong and then by boat and truck to a place called Panitola, in Assam, where there was a small, tented hospital… What a place that was!

It was monsoon time, and everything was very soggy and mouldy. Even our shoes grew whiskers overnight and all sorts of creepy-crawlies were to be found in our wellies when we knocked them out in the morning, before we put them on.

Our patients here were those who remained of the Chindits, men who had served with Col. Orde Wingate – and a very bolshie lot they were too! They were given a free rein as they had been within the jungle suffering extreme hardship for many a long month.

They refused haircuts and shaves at first, but after a few weeks they submitted to the ‘short back and sides’ cut and had their beards trimmed. They had very bad jungle sores, fevers, and gunshot wounds, which kept us nurses busy. As they improved, they were sent ‘down the line’ to a Base Hospital in India.”

Source: [Nursing, Ivy Pritchard – Burma Star Memorial Fund](https://burmastarmemorial.org/archive/stories/1405922-ivy-pritchards-story?q=Chindits)