

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

112 Nicholson Rd, Gloucester City, NJ 08030 (856) 456-8008 betweenthecovers.com

Ethel Lee Sims

[Real Photo Post Card]: World War I African American Nurse

Omaha, Nebraska; Big Sandy, Texas: circa 1917



Real photo post card. Undated (but around 1918 when the paper manufacturer AZO changed its trademark to the “two ‘up’ and two ‘down’ triangles” surrounding the postage square). Unmailed but contains a message and address. Very good or better with some abrasions and slight age toning. A photograph of a young African-American nurse, Ethel Lee Sims, in her Army Nurse Corps uniform posing in front of an American flag. On the verso is written, “with much love from your little girl, Ethel Lee Sims, Omaha, Nebraska” and is addressed to “Mrs. Mary Butler, Big Sandy, Texas.”

POST CARD

▲ A Z O ▲
▲ PLACE ▲
■ STAMP ■
○ HERE ○
▼ A Z O ▼

CORRESPONDENCE

ADDRESS

with much love
from your little
girl Ethel
Lee Sims
Omaha Neb.

Mrs Mary Butler
Big Sandy,
Tx

Nurses were included in the medical branch of the military beginning in 1901 when they were recognized as contributing members of the medical team. They were not commissioned as officers at this point and only held enlisted rank of regular army and were able to enlist for three year periods. By World War I 20,000 RNs (registered nurses) were recruited, 10,000 of whom served overseas. Of the recruits only a small amount of these women were African-American and following the war the war eligibility requirements were revised and stated a recruit must be “female, white, unmarried, volunteer, and a graduate from a civilian nursing school.” [BTC#402018]