

Karpelena, Helen

## Bethlehem Navy Nurse Sings Part in San Francisco Opera

OCT 12 1944

Lieut. (jg) Helen Karpelena, after having spent nineteen months in the Pacific theatre of war, sang the role of Ellen in the San Francisco Opera Company's presentation of Lakme last week.

Helen, the daughter of a violin teacher, this city, spent five years learning the violin under his tutelage. When she went to the University of Pennsylvania, the coach of the glee club remarked about her voice and suggested she take singing lessons. She did—and is still doing it.

Service men and women are glad she did, for from the time she went on a hospital ship as a navy nurse in the beginning of the war, she has helped boost their morale with her singing.

While at Pearl Harbor, she participated in a Bond Rally with Maurice Evans and Judith Anderson.

After transferring back to the United States, she was sent to the dispensary at the Naval Supply Depot in Oakland, Calif. When the auditions for the 1944-45 season were held, Commander Waldo E. Goldman, stationed at the dispensary, suggested she try out.

Lieut. Karpelena decided to become a naval nurse three years ago, when the world was threatened with war. Today, with a foreign service



MISS HELEN KARPELENIA

ribbon to her credit, and despite the fact that she can quit the navy with honor after three years of service, she says, "This is no time to get out of the war."

As for her ambition, it is to sing at the Metropolitan.

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