

Lillian Abrams Williams Obituary

Lillian Abrams Williams of Indio, California, died Friday, October 8, 2010, in the company of her family. Born in Gwen, Michigan, on August 25, 1923, as the youngest daughter of Rose and Paul Abrams, Lil and her family migrated to the Coachella Valley in 1925 and soon became prominent business owners in the Indio community. Graduating from Coachella Valley High School in 1941, Lil helped run the family business before she married the love of her life, Bob, in 1948, and started her family. Lil managed The Clothesline for her mother Rose and brother Paul from the 1950's on, and co-owned Bob William's Menswear and Bridal and Tuxedo with her husband. Somehow, she found time to raise eight children, docent at the Indio History Museum, and be an active member of the Indio Women's Club. Later in life, Lil spent time with her children and grandchildren, and was active at the Indio Senior Center playing bridge and exercising at every opportunity. Her husband Bob of 62 years and her son Chris precede Lilian in death. She is survived by her daughter Claudia and husband Danny; her daughter Patty and husband Mark; her daughter Kathleen and husband Aram; her son David; her son Mark and wife, Patty; her twin daughters Theresa and Nancy; and her eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. A Memorial Mass will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Monday, October 18, 2010, at 11:00 AM, followed by a Celebration of Life at Indian Palms Country Club, Indio.



General Patton's Training Camps

In February 1942, the US Army assigned General George S. Patton, Jr., to advance desert tank warfare and train US soldiers for combat under the harshest desert conditions possible.

Patton established the headquarters for his base camp, Camp Young, near Chiriaco Summit, 25 miles east of Indio. He established twelve auxiliary camps, including hospitals, medical units, and supply depots, and arranged communication logistics with local and regional telephone companies. Patton located camps near major roads and railroad communities to transport troops, equipment, and supplies.

Where possible, Patton located camps near the Metropolitan Water District aqueduct to provide his troops water. For camps Ibis and Essex located far from the aqueduct, the Army built 500,000 gallon reservoirs.

Patton established five major airfields where America's young pilots would learn to fly. Landing strips also were built near each camp to bring in supplies.

Conditions were primitive - no barracks or running water. Winter temperatures could vary from 100° at noon to below freezing at night. Summer temperatures could reach 130° in the shade and could average 150° to 160° inside the tanks. The perils of flash floods, sand storms, snakes, and scorpions would further push soldiers to their limits of endurance.