

**Interview of Marion E. Marriman on her service  
with the YMCA in Europe during WWI**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5Interviewer #1: This tape is part of the Women's Overseas Service League oral histories  
6 project.  
7  
8Marion E. Marriman: Mm-hm.  
9  
10Interviewer #1: And um, Mary Myers and Betty Booker are doing the interviewing of  
11 Marion...  
12  
13Marion E. Marriman: E.  
14  
15Interviewer #1: Marion Marriman from the Pittsburgh unit of the Women's Overseas  
16 Service League. So Marion we're just gonna ask a few questions and uh,  
17 look for informal uh...  
18  
19Marion E. Marriman: Uh-huh.  
20  
21Interviewer #1: ...answers.  
22  
23Marion E. Marriman: Well [inaudible 00:47] connected with the Overseas – or the...  
24  
25Interviewer #1: Okay.  
26  
27Marion E. Marriman: ...Overseas League.  
28  
29Interviewer #1: So...  
30  
31Marion E. Marriman: [inaudible 00:43].  
32  
33Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. [00:55] I think we'd like to know um, uh, what organization  
34 sponsored you, with your...  
35  
36Marion E. Marriman: YMCA.  
37  
38Interviewer #1: ...the YMCA – with your overseas service? And first we want to look at  
39 some of the background before you uh, uh, went over for this service.  
40 [01:17] What prompted you to volunteer for...  
41  
42Marion E. Marriman: Well, as I said...  
43  
44Interviewer #1: ...this service?

1  
2Marion E. Marriman: ...for the adventure.  
3Interviewer #1: Adventure. Mm-hm.  
4  
5Marion E. Marriman: That was about it.  
6  
7Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
8  
9Interviewer #2: And the excitement.  
10  
11Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
12  
13Marion E. Marriman: I was young. [laughter]  
14  
15Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
16  
17Interviewer #2: Yeah.  
18  
19Interviewer #1: [01:36] Had you been connected with this organization before you did this  
20 [inaudible 01:39]?  
21  
22Marion E. Marriman: No. It was a men's organization. YMCA.  
23  
24Interviewer #1: Oh, it was the YMCA.  
25  
26Marion E. Marriman: Oh yes.  
27  
28Interviewer #1: That's right.  
29  
30Marion E. Marriman: They had me at the convention [YW 01:48]. That was the Hostess House  
31 [work 01:51] and I didn't have anything to do with it.  
32  
33Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
34  
35Interviewer #2: It was the YM-, ...  
36  
37Marion E. Marriman: YMCA.  
38  
39Interviewer #2: Yeah.  
40  
41Marion E. Marriman: They sent the women overseas.  
42  
43Interviewer #1: Oh, okay. [02:03] Um, after you volunteered, did you have any special  
44 preparation for going overseas?

1  
2Marion E. Marriman: Well we had to take um, we had to take certain things with us.  
3  
4Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
5Marion E. Marriman: We had to take a year's supply of sugar. We had to take a year's supply of  
6 toilet paper.  
7  
8Interviewer #2: [laughter]  
9  
10Marion E. Marriman: We had to take a year – we had to take canned heat.  
11  
12Interviewer #1: Oh dear.  
13  
14Marion E. Marriman: Well they didn't have anything over there in time – in those days. And –  
15 oh, we had to take heavy underwear. But we used always to swap for  
16 things when we go over there.  
17  
18Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
19  
20Marion E. Marriman: Soap...  
21  
22Interviewer #2: Barter.  
23  
24Marion E. Marriman: Soap – you could buy anything in Paris for a cake of soap.  
25  
26Interviewer #1: Is that right.  
27  
28Interviewer #2: Uh-huh.  
29  
30Marion E. Marriman: They were so shorthanded.  
31  
32Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
33  
34Marion E. Marriman: But we had to take all those things. We were allowed a steamer trunk and  
35 we had to fill it up with cocoa. We had to take cocoa. It was a long time  
36 ago. I don't remember all the things.  
37  
38Interviewer #2: Yeah.  
39  
40Marion E. Marriman: The toilet paper – we could get anything in Europe for that.  
41  
42Interviewer #2: [laughter]  
43

1Interviewer #1: Is that right. Oh. [03:13] Could you tell us a little about your trip  
2overseas?  
3  
4Marion E. Marriman: Yes. We went over on the [inaudible 03:19] Chicago, the French liner,  
5and we had no escort because we carried the German mail.  
6  
7Interviewer #1: Oh.  
8Marion E. Marriman: The Swiss mail.  
9  
10Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
11  
12Marion E. Marriman: It took us 18 days. We zig-zagged but we didn't go with any group.  
13  
14Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
15  
16Marion E. Marriman: Any – no, no escort at all because we were carrying the Swiss and the  
17German mail.  
18  
19Interviewer #1: So you didn't have to worry about the submarines then.  
20  
21Marion E. Marriman: We saw plenty of them.  
22  
23Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
24  
25Marion E. Marriman: No, we didn't have to worry.  
26  
27Interviewer #2: [03:52] And you weren't...  
28  
29Marion E. Marriman: They wouldn't have worried me anyway.  
30  
31Interviewer #2: ...you weren't attacked at all?  
32  
33Marion E. Marriman: No.  
34  
35Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. [03:58] Do you remember the date that you went overseas?  
36  
37Marion E. Marriman: Well, it was...  
38  
39Interviewer #1: Approximate?  
40  
41Marion E. Marriman: ...in July. July but I don't know the day.  
42  
43Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
44

1Marion E. Marriman: 1918.  
2  
3Interviewer #1: 1918. Uh-huh.  
4  
5Interviewer #2: [Inaudible 04:12]. Oh. Part of this you did answer for us about the pay.  
6 [04:28] Uh, the assignment – if you had to wear a uniform.  
7  
8Marion E. Marriman: Yes. We had to – they furnished the uniform.  
9  
10Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. But you didn't...  
11  
12Marion E. Marriman: Except that we had to buy extra when we got over there because the  
13 uniform wasn't long enough.  
14  
15Interviewer #2: Mm-hm.  
16  
17Marion E. Marriman: We bought other coats.  
18  
19Interviewer #1: Did the – uh-huh, uh-huh.  
20  
21Marion E. Marriman: Uh-huh. Allowed to wear them.  
22  
23Interviewer #2: [04:48] And the pay, though. You said that you had to pay two hundred  
24 dollars. Is that right? They didn't pay you.  
25  
26Marion E. Marriman: To put out...  
27  
28Interviewer #2: They didn't pay you.  
29  
30Marion E. Marriman: ...oh no, no. We paid them. We had to put up two hundred  
31 dollars.  
32  
33Interviewer #1: [inaudible 05:00].  
34  
35Interviewer #2: [05:02] And when you got over there, what kind of housing did you have?  
36  
37Marion E. Marriman: Well, we were lucky. We were willing to sleep four in a room so we  
38 could stay at the Hostess House – the YWCA Hostess House.  
39  
40Interviewer #2: So you're...  
41  
42Marion E. Marriman: It was...  
43  
44Interviewer #2: ...accommodations were good, then.

1  
2Marion E. Marriman: Well, they were the best we could get.  
3  
4Interviewer #2: [05:28] And did you have specified times of work? You know – hours of  
5 working?  
6  
7Marion E. Marriman: Well...  
8  
9Interviewer #2: You know, like...  
10  
11Marion E. Marriman: ...all the time.  
12Interviewer #2: All the time. There was just now seven to three and [laughter] three to  
13 eleven?  
14  
15Marion E. Marriman: No.  
16  
17Interviewer #2: You were on call 24 hours.  
18  
19Marion E. Marriman: The canteen was open from eleven in the morning until eleven at night.  
20 But we had to make all our sandwiches and our cocoa for 3,000 people,  
21 which was a leave area, [inaudible 06:01].  
22  
23Interviewer #2: It was in France.  
24  
25Interviewer #1: It was in Paris. [06:07] Did you stay in Paris most of the time?  
26  
27Marion E. Marriman: Yes. We stayed in Paris until after the Armistice.  
28  
29Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
30  
31Marion E. Marriman: And um, then we went up – I was – then after that I was up to the 110<sup>th</sup>  
32 Engineers of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division.  
33  
34Interviewer #1: Oh.  
35  
36Marion E. Marriman: Kansas and Missouri troops has a canteen up there. And then from there I  
37 wound up at the Army of Occupation in Germany – Koblenz.  
38  
39Interviewer #1: Ah. Uh-huh.  
40  
41Marion E. Marriman: Met my husband up there.  
42  
43Interviewer #1: Oh well that was nice.  
44

1 Interviewer #2: [06:42] What service – what – who was he with? Engineers?  
2  
3 Marion E. Marriman: Machine gun...  
4  
5 Interviewer #2: Machine gun.  
6  
7 Marion E. Marriman: ...battalion. He wasn't with them up there, he was detached service...  
8  
9 Interviewer #2: ...detached...  
10  
11 Marion E. Marriman: ...and this was after the war. And up there, there was no need of canteen  
12 so they put me in the entertainment department, sending out entertainers to  
13 the different units. I had done some of that in Paris.  
14 Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
15  
16 Marion E. Marriman: Somebody found out that I was good at figures so I had to take care of all  
17 the entertainers' expense accounts.  
18  
19 Interviewer #2: Huh. [laughter]  
20  
21 Marion E. Marriman: That was extra work. We went over in the morning for that.  
22  
23 Interviewer #1: [07:28] This was entertainers for the troops? So [inaudible 07:31] ...  
24  
25 Marion E. Marriman: Yes. Mostly vaudevillians. In those days, vaudeville was...  
26  
27 Interviewer #2: Mm-hm.  
28  
29 Marion E. Marriman: ...very popular. And they were easy to handle. We didn't need to have  
30 any scenery or anything at all.  
31  
32 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
33  
34 Marion E. Marriman: They put on...  
35  
36 Interviewer #2: No background.  
37  
38 Marion E. Marriman: ...they just put on their acts. They were a circus. They were a lot of fun.  
39  
40 Interviewer #1: Mm-hm. [07:51] Did you have any um, uh, social activities other than  
41 your canteen work?  
42  
43 Marion E. Marriman: Not, not until after the Armistice.  
44

1 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
2  
3 Marion E. Marriman: After that every outfit in the place had dances.  
4  
5 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
6  
7 Marion E. Marriman: And I wore out 14 pairs of shoes.  
8  
9 Interviewer #1: [laughter] [inaudible 08:12].  
10  
11 Interviewer #2: [laughter]  
12  
13 Marion E. Marriman: My father sent me a pair every month.  
14  
15 Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
16 Marion E. Marriman: [inaudible 08:16] And I came home with my – with the sole of my shoe  
17 fastened to my foot with a rubber band.  
18  
19 Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
20  
21 Marion E. Marriman: I danced all the way across the Atlantic coming home.  
22  
23 Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
24  
25 Interviewer #2: I think that is precious.  
26  
27 Marion E. Marriman: Oh dear.  
28  
29 Interviewer #1: [08:35] Do you remember any uh, special experiences that were...  
30  
31 Marion E. Marriman: Oh, so many.  
32  
33 Interviewer #1: So many, huh? Anything...?  
34  
35 Marion E. Marriman: We were treated royally by the men. Never had any trouble with them at  
36 all. They did...  
37  
38 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
39  
40 Interviewer #2: They had a lot of respect.  
41  
42 Marion E. Marriman: Yes. I think it was quite different than they – they just were so glad to see  
43 us, you know?  
44

1Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
2  
3Marion E. Marriman: But um...  
4  
5Interviewer #1: [09:04] Do you remember any other humorous uh, experiences? Besides  
6 your shoes wearing out?  
7  
8Marion E. Marriman: No. I think – not that I know of.  
9  
10Interviewer #1: Yeah.  
11  
12Marion E. Marriman: We didn't take anything home we took over. We had swapped everything  
13 over there.  
14  
15Interviewer #1: Oh you did, huh?  
16  
17Marion E. Marriman: And it was – we were full of souvenirs and stuff coming home.  
18Interviewer #1: [09:28] So did – your trunks had different things in coming home.  
19  
20Marion E. Marriman: Yeah. They went to different places. Part of them went to New York.  
21 We landed in Norfolk, Virginia. We came home on a destroyer.  
22  
23Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. [09:43] Did you have to provide your own transportation then  
24 from Norfolk to home?  
25  
26Marion E. Marriman: Where?  
27  
28Interviewer #1: You say you landed in Norfolk?  
29  
30Marion E. Marriman: Oh yes. No, [inaudible 09:54].  
31  
32Interviewer #1: They took care of you then, huh?  
33  
34Interviewer #2: They took care...  
35  
36Marion E. Marriman: We came home on – we came up to New York.  
37  
38Interviewer #2: Mm-hm.  
39  
40Marion E. Marriman: 'Cause I had to pay for New York. But they brought us up on a troop  
41 plane. See, I went in from New York instead of Boston.  
42  
43Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
44

1Interviewer #2: Oh.  
2  
3Marion E. Marriman: 'Cause I could get in earlier there.  
4  
5Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. [10:15] Were you aware of uh, at all of what was going  
6 on at that time as far as the battles were concerned and the countries that  
7 were...  
8  
9Interviewer #2: [inaudible 10:26].  
10  
11Interviewer #1: The Allied troops? The different Allied troops? I, I just...  
12  
13Marion E. Marriman: I don't quite understand.  
14  
15Interviewer #1: Well I was, I was trying to see if, you know, as a volunteer over there  
16 working with the troops, you know – the American forces were part of the  
17 Allied forces...  
18  
19Marion E. Marriman: Mm-hm.  
20Interviewer #1: And uh...  
21  
22Marion E. Marriman: Well the only connection we had – one night a week we would stay up all  
23 night...  
24  
25Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
26  
27Marion E. Marriman: ...and go into the station and meet the wounded coming in...  
28  
29Interviewer #1: Ah.  
30  
31Marion E. Marriman: ...from the battlefield. And they would be French, British, Australian, or  
32 American.  
33  
34Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
35  
36Marion E. Marriman: But they were the badly wounded and they'd be laid out on the uh,  
37 platform. And in those days you could give them a cigarette or a drink of  
38 water, you know? Nowadays they wouldn't let you do that. But...  
39  
40Interviewer #1: Okay.  
41  
42Marion E. Marriman: ...we could give them a drink of water or a cigarette and talk to them, take  
43 their home addresses and write letters to their...  
44

1 Interviewer #2: Families.  
2  
3 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
4  
5 Marion E. Marriman: This was one night a week. That's all they'd let us do because we didn't  
6 go to bed. We had to go to work right from there.  
7  
8 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
9  
10 Marion E. Marriman: Oh we worked, we really did.  
11  
12 Interviewer #1: You cert-, it certainly sounds like it.  
13  
14 Marion E. Marriman: There weren't that many girls over there  
15  
16 Interviewer #2: Yes. Oh no.  
17  
18 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
19  
20 Marion E. Marriman: There were a lot of nurses but very few others.  
21  
22 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
23  
24 Interviewer #2: [11:51] And you already, I think, addressed this but you were never  
25 threatened by being a female amongst many males?  
26  
27 Marion E. Marriman: Oh no.  
28  
29 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
30  
31 Marion E. Marriman: They were wonderful to us.  
32  
33 Interviewer #1: [12:06] Um, does it – do you know, does the YMCA provide the same  
34 type of service today? [inaudible 12:19].  
35  
36 Marion E. Marriman: No, but it didn't in the Second World War, either.  
37  
38 Interviewer #1: Okay.  
39  
40 Interviewer #2: [inaudible 12:22].  
41  
42 Marion E. Marriman: The army had something to do with that I think.  
43  
44 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.

1  
2Marion E. Marriman: They, they don't – you see there were a lot of services in the First World  
3War.  
4  
5Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
6  
7Marion E. Marriman: Jewish [inaudible 12:33], the um, uh, Irish [inaudible 12:41]. Well they  
8all, all different kinds of [inaudible 12:47].  
9  
10Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
11  
12Marion E. Marriman: American Library Association that [inaudible 12:50] was with...  
13  
14Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
15  
16Marion E. Marriman: They combined everything in the Second World War.  
17  
18Interviewer #1: Yeah. Yep.  
19  
20Marion E. Marriman: It was easier for them to keep track of them.  
21  
22Interviewer #1: You're right.  
23  
24Interviewer #2: Today, you know, after World War Two they had a pension [inaudible  
2513:03] World War One. [13:05] Did you have any benefits at all?  
26  
27Marion E. Marriman: No. We had no connection with the army whatever.  
28  
29Interviewer #2: Nothing with the government, as far as benefits?  
30  
31Marion E. Marriman: We had to get, we had to get passes from them on the railroad.  
32  
33Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
34  
35Marion E. Marriman: We paid for them but they – we had to get them – and billets.  
36  
37Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
38  
39Marion E. Marriman: And the billets were not so [hot 13:27].  
40  
41Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
42  
43Interviewer #2: Sure. [laughter]  
44

1Marion E. Marriman: We had one up in um, Kobl-, – up in Cologne. They gave us one. It was  
2over a saloon. [laughter] And we stayed up all night guarding the doors.  
3  
4Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
5  
6Marion E. Marriman: There were two girls – two women upstairs. We moved all our furniture  
7over in front of the doors.  
8  
9Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
10  
11Marion E. Marriman: They were all trying to get in. But that was not the American troops.  
12  
13Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
14  
15Marion E. Marriman: These weren't troops at all. They were just civilians...  
16  
17Interviewer #1: Natives.  
18  
19Marion E. Marriman: ...so to speak.  
20  
21Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
22  
23Marion E. Marriman: But that was the only trouble – trouble we ever had. But um – no, they  
24just treated us royally.  
25  
26Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
27  
28Marion E. Marriman: Appreciated every little thing you did for them.  
29  
30Interviewer #1: [14:15] Do you have any friends from that time living? That...  
31  
32Marion E. Marriman: Not at all.  
33  
34Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
35  
36Marion E. Marriman: I outlived them all. There were four of us that went over but we met on,  
37we met on the boat in one stateroom. And uh, we kept in track until – the  
38other three were a lot older than I was.  
39  
40Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Mm-hm. [14:43] When you came back, um, did you continue  
41any type of service like this here after the war?  
42  
43Marion E. Marriman: Uh-uh.  
44

1Interviewer #1: [14:53] Do you remember where you were when the Armistice was  
2 signed?  
3  
4Marion E. Marriman: Hm?  
5  
6Interviewer #1: Do you remember where you were when the Armistice was signed?  
7 November 11, 1918?  
8  
9Marion E. Marriman: Oh, yes. In Paris.  
10  
11Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
12  
13Marion E. Marriman: Wouldn't have been anywhere else.  
14  
15Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
16  
17Marion E. Marriman: They – at 11:00 the church bells began to chime and everybody rushed out  
18 in the streets. Those streets were just packed. And um, the uh, opera  
19 house – they were rehearsing there for an opera and all these stars came  
20 out on the balcony and sang La Marseillaise.  
21  
22Interviewer #1: Mm. Oh.  
23  
24Marion E. Marriman: And it was picked up by everybody in the streets, you know? And then  
25 that night the lights came on in the first time in four years.  
26  
27Interviewer #1: Ah.  
28Marion E. Marriman: And that was a thrill.  
29  
30Interviewer #1: Dramatic, huh? Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
31  
32Marion E. Marriman: I wouldn't have been anywhere else for that one.  
33  
34Interviewer #1: [15:51] But you stayed a while after that, didn't you?  
35  
36Marion E. Marriman: Oh yes.  
37  
38Interviewer #1: 'Cause you went with the...  
39  
40Marion E. Marriman: I didn't get out until – I didn't come back until October the next year.  
41  
42Interviewer #1: Oh.  
43  
44Interviewer #2: Oh.

1  
2Marion E. Marriman: [inaudible 15:58] the Army – [inaudible 15:59] the Army of Occupation.  
3  
4Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
5  
6Interviewer #2: Oh.  
7  
8Interviewer #1: [16:03] Were your services similar after that? You still had canteens...  
9  
10Marion E. Marriman: Well with no fire – with no shooting...  
11  
12Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
13  
14Marion E. Marriman: ...it was the same thing but...  
15  
16Interviewer #2: More of a citizen.  
17  
18Interviewer #1: But it...  
19  
20Marion E. Marriman: ...up in, up in Germany they were sending the troops home.  
21  
22Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
23  
24Marion E. Marriman: And there was no need of the canteens. They...  
25  
26Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
27  
28Marion E. Marriman: ...they had one but there was no need of the other ones with the troops.  
29 So that was when I went in with the entertaining department. Mm-hm.  
  
31Interviewer #1: With the entertaining. Uh-huh.  
32  
33Marion E. Marriman: We had a lot of famous entertainers.  
34  
35Interviewer #1: [16:33] Who did you – who do you remember?  
36  
37Marion E. Marriman: Elsie Janis.  
38  
39Interviewer #1: Elsie?  
40  
41Marion E. Marriman: Elsie Janis.  
42  
43Interviewer #1: Janis?  
44

1 Marion E. Marriman: She was famous ...  
2  
3 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
4  
5 Marion E. Marriman: There were a lot of them I don't remember.  
6  
7 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
8  
9 Marion E. Marriman: Mostly vaudevillians...  
10  
11 Interviewer #1: Yeah.  
12  
13 Marion E. Marriman: ...but there were...  
14  
15 Interviewer #1: [16:47] Do you remember any famous songs from that time?  
16  
17 Marion E. Marriman: Yeah. They – the Second World War adopted [inaudible 16:52].  
18  
19 Interviewer #1: The [inaudible 16:53].  
20  
21 Interviewer #2: They said – she said Marseillaise.  
22  
23 Interviewer #1: Yeah, well that's their [inaudible 16:57].  
24  
25 Marion E. Marriman: Well that's the French national anthem.  
26  
27 Interviewer #2: I know, but that's...  
28  
29 Interviewer #1: "Over There?" [laughter]  
30  
31 Marion E. Marriman: Well, that was one of the troop songs. Marseillaise in Paris was the...  
32  
33 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
34  
35 Marion E. Marriman: ...French national anthem they played. So [inaudible 17:12]. But that  
36 was quite a night. Yes, but the Second World War took over most of the  
37 most of the World War One songs.  
38  
39 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
40  
41 Marion E. Marriman: There weren't much difference.  
42  
43 Interviewer #1: Yeah, yeah.  
44

1Marion E. Marriman: They had a – we didn't have any air – air force songs 'cause there wasn't  
2much of an air force.  
3  
4Interviewer #1: That's right. Uh-huh. There wasn't.  
5  
6Marion E. Marriman: Well they had airplanes...  
7  
8Interviewer #2: But not...  
9  
10Marion E. Marriman: ...but they could only fly at night when there was a full moon 'cause they  
11had no – you see there were no lights in...  
12  
13Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
14  
15Marion E. Marriman: ...the cities at all. And we had one bomb that fell in our courtyard of our  
16hotel but it didn't go off.  
17  
18Interviewer #1: Oh. [laughter] Oh my God.  
19  
20Marion E. Marriman: But they could only come over in the full moon.  
21  
22Interviewer #1: Well, that's interesting.  
23  
24Marion E. Marriman: 'Cause they couldn't see the city.  
25  
26Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
27  
28Marion E. Marriman: No lights.  
29  
30Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Mm-hm.  
31  
32Marion E. Marriman: So it – and those airplanes that they flew in you wonder how they stayed  
33up.  
34  
35Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
36  
37Marion E. Marriman: There was no – only just place for your feet underneath it...  
38  
39Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
40  
41Marion E. Marriman: ...but look right down.  
42  
43Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
44

1 Marion E. Marriman: [inaudible 18:17].  
2  
3 Interviewer #2: Is that right?  
4  
5 Marion E. Marriman: There were [inaudible 18:21] planes that had a roof and just boxes.  
6  
7 Interviewer #2: Oh.  
8  
9 Marion E. Marriman: And the aviators were drunk all the time...  
10  
11 Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
12  
13 Interviewer #2: [laughter]  
14  
15 Marion E. Marriman: Well they said that you wouldn't go up in one of those things unless you  
16 were.  
17  
18 Interviewer #1: If you weren't. I'll be darned.  
19  
20 Marion E. Marriman: They were a pretty wild crowd.  
21  
22 Interviewer #2: They were worse than the helicopters. You know, when she says you look  
23 down.  
24  
25 Marion E. Marriman: Well, they were just [inaudible 18:41].  
26  
27 Interviewer #1: Right, right.  
28  
29 Marion E. Marriman: Just put together [inaudible 18:44].  
30  
31 Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
32  
33 Marion E. Marriman: No – hitched in.  
34  
35 Interviewer #2: Right.  
36  
37 Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
38  
39 Marion E. Marriman: You wonder how they ever [inaudible 18:50]. They had a lot of fighting  
40 up there too in the daytime.  
41  
42 Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
43  
44 Marion E. Marriman: But...

1  
2Interviewer #1: [10:01] You have any other thoughts you'd like to share with us?  
3  
4Marion E. Marriman: Mm-mm. [You said it 19:06].  
5  
6Interviewer #1: Well I...  
7  
8Marion E. Marriman: I don't think of it now. I don't think of anything now.  
9  
10Interviewer #1: Okay. That's very...  
11  
12Marion E. Marriman: So many incidents...  
13  
14Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
15  
16Marion E. Marriman: ...that – of interest. You'd meet somebody, you know on the street, you  
17 know...  
18  
19Interviewer #1: Right.  
20  
21Marion E. Marriman: ...they look like old friends...  
22  
23Interviewer #2: Right.  
24  
25Marion E. Marriman: ...even if you hadn't known them.  
26  
27Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
28  
29Interviewer #2: That continued in World War Two. So...  
30  
31Marion E. Marriman: Mm-hm.  
32  
33Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
34  
35Marion E. Marriman: So it continues anywhere you go. It does – in civilian life we met  
36 somebody down in Panama that we knew. We were almost neighbors,  
37 even though we'd never seen them, you know?  
38  
39Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
40  
41Marion E. Marriman: That happens everywhere.  
42  
43Interviewer #1: Yeah.  
44

1 Marion E. Marriman: But...  
2  
3 Interviewer #2: [19:44] When you came back, Marion, did you have a hard adjustment  
4 back in the States 'cause you were gone like...  
5  
6 Marion E. Marriman: Mm-hm.  
7  
8 Interviewer #1: ...it was hard, wasn't it?  
9  
10 Marion E. Marriman: Mm-hm.  
11  
12 Interviewer #2: But the return back...  
13  
14 Marion E. Marriman: You know I missed all of the excitement.  
15  
16 Interviewer #2: Right, right.  
17  
18 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
19  
20 Interviewer #2: [19:57] And what were the news – you know, media like that at that time?  
21 Did they write all these big stories and – you know, here...  
22  
23 Marion E. Marriman: Well. No...  
24  
25 Interviewer #2: No?  
26  
27 Marion E. Marriman: ...I don't remember too many of them.  
28  
29 Interviewer #2: Now...  
30  
31 Marion E. Marriman: Not like now.  
32  
33 Interviewer #2: Now that's what World War Two – the media I think played a big part  
34 into the...  
35  
36 Marion E. Marriman: We didn't have a radio. We didn't have television.  
37  
38 Interviewer #2: Yeah. Well that's why it's [inaudible 20:23].  
39  
40 Marion E. Marriman: There was...  
41 Interviewer #2: ...news. Yeah.  
42  
43 Interviewer #1: Newspapers.  
44

1 Marion E. Marriman: There was some communication by radio – very little, in the army.  
2  
3 Interviewer #2: [inaudible 20:31].  
4  
5 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
6  
7 Marion E. Marriman: We didn't have automobiles, you know?  
8  
9 Interviewer #2: No.  
10  
11 Marion E. Marriman: They, they uh – all of the ammunition – the heavy ammunition was pulled  
12 with horses.  
13  
14 Interviewer #2: Uh-huh.  
15  
16 Marion E. Marriman: You don't – you can't realize the difference.  
17  
18 Interviewer #2: Yes.  
19  
20 Marion E. Marriman: They had taxis and they had a few taxis. You could get one there except  
21 at noontime when you wanted them. [inaudible 20:55]. They had to have  
22 lunch for two hours.  
23  
24 Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
25  
26 Interviewer #2: I do think that some of the reactions today in the army – it's caused by a  
27 lot with the media gives over the [inaudible 21:07].  
28  
29 Marion E. Marriman: Oh I think they – I think they influence everything.  
30  
31 Interviewer #2: That's why I asked, you know.  
32  
33 Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
34  
35 Marion E. Marriman: We had telephones, of course.  
36  
37 Interviewer #2: Yes.  
38  
39 Marion E. Marriman: But – of course television was way in the future.  
40  
41 Interviewer #2: [laughter]  
42  
43 Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
44

1Interviewer #2: That's right.  
2  
3Marion E. Marriman: Nobody ever would dream of it now. And um...  
4  
5Interviewer #2: I was, I was in France too. I served in France – our unit. So when you say  
6 “Paris” I could've envisioned it on Armistice at night. You know?  
7  
8Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
9  
10Marion E. Marriman: Well it was quite a...  
11  
12Interviewer #2: Arc of Triomphe...  
13  
14Marion E. Marriman: So they didn't have any lights at night and when we came home from the  
15 canteen we had to come home in the dark. You know every brick.  
16  
17Interviewer #1: Sure.  
18  
19Interviewer #2: [laughter]  
20  
21Marion E. Marriman: You know brink in the road and you know every bump in the street. You  
22 couldn't see 'em...  
23  
24Interviewer #2: Sure.  
25  
26Marion E. Marriman: ...but you got used to them.  
27  
28Interviewer #1: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.  
29  
30Marion E. Marriman: But it's quite a city. I loved it.  
31  
32Interviewer #1: Mm.  
33  
34Marion E. Marriman: Part of our work there was – it was a leave area after the Armistice and  
35 part of our work was showing the men the city.  
36  
37Interviewer #2: Oh. That was interesting. 'Cause you had learned through – from the  
38 minute you came, adjusting.  
39  
40Marion E. Marriman: Well if we hadn't, we'd have...  
41  
42Interviewer #2: Self survival, huh?  
43

1Marion E. Marriman: Yeah, yeah. So – but we really did work awfully hard. It was fun. It is  
2fun to work hard if you enjoy it.  
3  
4Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
5  
6Marion E. Marriman: Never a dull moment.  
7  
8Interviewer #1: [22:42] Do – were, were – did you speak French at that time?  
9  
10Marion E. Marriman: Well I had been to school over there.  
11  
12Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
13  
14Marion E. Marriman: I did know some but...  
15  
16Interviewer #1: So you didn't have the...  
17  
18Marion E. Marriman: ...I don't know any now. I haven't had any practice for 60 years and  
19[inaudible 22:56].  
20  
21Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
22  
23Interviewer #2: I had my high school French, which was very limited. But I...  
24  
25Marion E. Marriman: It doesn't do you much good over there.  
26  
27Interviewer #2: The only thing I learned to say were "eggs," and "food." I learned that to  
28survive when we were out in the country. We were in a staging area.  
29  
30Marion E. Marriman: [laughter]  
31  
32Interviewer #1: But you're right. If you just know a few words, but...  
33  
34Marion E. Marriman: Well now I guess you don't need very much.  
35  
36Interviewer #1: Mm-hm.  
37  
38Marion E. Marriman: My husband knew two words and he ate a lot of eggs.  
39  
40Interviewer #1: [laughter] [inaudible 23:25].  
41  
42Interviewer #2: Oeuf! Oeuf!  
43  
44Marion E. Marriman: Les oeufs! Les oeufs!

1  
2Interviewer #2: That's what I'm saying. That was my first word...  
3Marion E. Marriman: [laughter]  
4  
5Interviewer #1: ...in the country [for a change 23:31].  
6  
7Marion E. Marriman: Deux oeufs. Two eggs.  
8  
9Interviewer #2: Uh-huh. [laughter]  
10  
11Marion E. Marriman: We lived on two eggs.  
12  
13Interviewer #2 That's right. That's right.  
14  
15Marion E. Marriman: Oh dear. We tried it out in Montreal and it didn't work.  
16  
17Interviewer #2: [laughter] That's French [inaudible 23:45].  
18  
19Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
20  
21Marion E. Marriman: The waiter said, "Two eggs?"  
22  
23Interviewer #1: Well that – that's very good, Marion.  
24  
25Marion E. Marriman: It was.  
26  
27Interviewer #1: We appreciate this time and this lunch. [Inaudible 24:00].  
28  
29Marion E. Marriman: Well, glad to do this [inaudible 24:01].  
30  
31Interviewer #2: I uh... I feel I gained. I learned as much as anything. You know, I had  
32 no idea.  
33  
34Marion E. Marriman: Well there's so much difference in the two wars.  
35  
36Interviewer #1: Yeah.  
37  
38Marion E. Marriman: Was 20 years apart but so much different in life. Everything was  
39 different.  
40  
41Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
42  
43Interviewer #2: She's right.  
44

1Marion E. Marriman: Communications.  
2  
3Interviewer #1: Well, it changes over the years.  
4  
5Marion E. Marriman: Besides it was new sending women over.  
6  
7Interviewer #2: Sure.  
8  
9Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
10  
11Marion E. Marriman: It was, it was the first time it had been done and...  
12  
13Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
14  
15Interviewer #2: Now in this – you know, any conflicts, it would be a feminist movement  
16 as opposed to a male – you know? Then you dind't think – but now...  
17  
18Marion E. Marriman: I think that some women are crazy. Why would they want to do things.  
19  
20Interviewer #1: Uh-huh.  
21  
22Interviewer #2: I still want people to open the door for me.  
23  
24Interviewer #1: [laughter]  
25  
26Marion E. Marriman: Well I still like to be a woman instead of a...  
27  
28Interviewer #2: [laughter] That's what I'm saying!  
29  
30Interviewer #1: Okay.  
31  
32Marion E. Marriman: Some things that are ridiculous.  
33  
34  
35/ks