

**Interview of Rose M. Stornant on her service as a  
legal secretary in the Women's Army Corps during WWII**

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4  
5Elsie Hornbacher: This is July 11th, 1984. Rose Stornant is recording her experiences with the  
6 women, Women's Army Corps. Um. Rose lives at 323 North Walnut,  
7 apartment 501, Lansing, MI 48933. Her telephone number, the area code is  
8 517, the number is 372-1715. If there are any questions concerning this  
9 interview, Rose can be, um, located by telephone or by letter at the number  
10 or the address. [0:48] Uh, Rose, uh, what did you do prior to enlistment?  
11  
12Rose Stornant: I was a legal secretary in the Attorney General's Office in Lansing,  
13 Michigan, in the collection division, and when I went into service – when  
14 we landed in California and the WAC officer came running out, "Is there a  
15 legal secretary present?" I kept my mouth shut 'cause I wanted something  
16 different. I had visions of patching the boys up overseas, so [laughter] the  
17 other girl was – one – uh, there a little Jewish girl there that spoke right up;  
18 oh, she would be interested in that, but guess who got the assignment? Rose  
19 Stornant got the assignment, so I was a legal secretary right from the very  
20 beginning.  
21  
22Elsie Hornbacher: [1:30] Rose, what date was this?  
23  
24Rose Stornant: I went into service in, uh, February of 1943.  
25  
26Elsie Hornbacher: 1943.  
27  
28Rose Stornant: Right, and then after army, uh, basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia,  
29 which was a month or six weeks, I don't remember now; I believe four  
30 weeks. From there I went to Army [Ad 1:49] School in Russellville,  
31 Arkansas, and from there I was assigned to Lemoore Army Air Field in  
32 California.  
33  
34Elsie Hornbacher: [1:56] Where were these schools? Were they in established colleges or,  
35 uh...?  
36  
37Rose Stornant: Yes, uh, the one – the Army [Ad 2:02] School was at, uh, Russellville State  
38 College.  
39  
40Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
41  
42Rose Stornant: It was a really a lovely place and, uh, from there I went – got my first  
43 assignment at s-, Lemoore Army Air Field, and I was assigned as the – with

1 courts and boards, a legal secretary, and I was reporting g-, not general  
2 courts, the special courts.  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: [2:23] Who taught these courses?  
5  
6Rose Stornant: Who taught'm?  
7  
8Elsie Hornbacher: [2:26] Regular college professors or the army?  
9  
10Rose Stornant: There was, there was no course in this.  
11  
12Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
13  
14Rose Stornant: But I was a legal secretary, so they just, uh, assumed that I could do it,  
15 which I did.  
16  
17Elsie Hornbacher: Oh. I see.  
18  
19Rose Stornant: The funny part of it was, uh, the, uh, officer – the head of the judge  
20 advocate's office asked me how fast I could type. M-, I, I believe I told him  
21 75 words a minute. And he's, 'Well, we'll see how fast you can type.' And  
22 he didn't know beans about, you know, how fast a stenographer could type.  
23 [laughter]  
24  
25Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
26  
27Rose Stornant: But, uh.  
28  
29Elsie Hornbacher: [3:04] How did he judge it? [laughter]  
30  
31Rose Stornant: [laughter] Beats me. Anyway, they were satisfied. Uh, there was a, uh, a  
32 G.I., uh, doing, uh, this job at the time, and he wanted to get into the fight.  
33 'Course, this was the purpose of the WACs, to relieve, uh, men at the desk  
34 for, you know, combat. This was our purpose, and when they saw us  
35 coming overseas, they didn't like it. Not the armchair commandos. But, uh,  
36 Harry [inaudible 3:32] was his name and a nice guy. And one time, we had  
37 a terrible, uh, case on the base, a rape case, and they had pretrial hearings  
38 and Harry took part and I took part, and after the, uh – when we were  
39 transcribing our notes, when Harry was stuck on something – I, I could tra-,  
40 I could, uh, transcribe his notes and, and, uh, vice versa, so we were a –  
41 quite a bit'a help to each other. We – fortunately he learned the same type  
42 of shorthand because not everybody writes the same type, you know. But  
43 let's get to overseas; this is what this is about, isn't it?  
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: Yes. Mm-hm.  
2  
3Rose Stornant: Well, then, uh, from c-, [laughing] California I was, uh, sent overseas.  
4  
5Elsie Hornbacher: [4:16] Where?  
6  
7Rose Stornant: Uh, we l-, we landed at Firth of Clyde in Scotland.  
8  
9Elsie Hornbacher: [4:22] In Scotland? What year was this now? Nineteen...?  
10  
11Rose Stornant: Fourty-four. In March...  
12  
13Elsie Hornbacher: Nineteen...  
14  
15Rose Stornant: ...of '44.  
16  
17Elsie Hornbacher: March. A whole year before the war ended.  
18  
19Rose Stornant: Yes, I was a year in California...  
20  
21Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
22  
23Rose Stornant: ...and, uh...  
24  
25Elsie Hornbacher: Now you're in Scotland.  
26  
27Rose Stornant: Right. And, uh, h-, uh, h-, here's something. Guess what w-, was waiting  
28 for us on the other side? A Scottish band with the skirts and all playin' their  
29 bagpipes, and they took us right to the train and then we went through, uh,  
30 Scotland by train and on – all the way down, we got the V sign from the  
31 Scottish people. It was really quite a nice ride, and, uh, we went to –  
32 Taunton, England was our first...  
33  
34Elsie Hornbacher: [5:03] Taunton?  
35  
36Rose Stornant: Taunton, England...  
37  
38Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
39  
40Rose Stornant: ...was my first assignment.  
41  
42Elsie Hornbacher: T-O-N-T-O-N.  
43  
44Rose Stornant: T-A-U-N-T-O-N, right.

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: T-A-U-N.  
3  
4Rose Stornant: T-O-N. And, uh, uh, this was a lovely, uh, manor out in the country where  
5 we worked, and they had fireplaces in each room, you know, and they don't  
6 have central heating in England. If you've ever been there, you'll know  
7 that. And it's really cold there in England.  
8  
9Elsie Hornbacher: I avoided going there in the winter for that reason.  
10  
11Rose Stornant: [laughter] And, so, uh, and, uh, there was a lovely pathway, you know,  
12 going up to the castle. We used to call it the castle.  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: [5:39] But it was cold.  
15  
16Rose Stornant: Well, yes, it depends. I, I forget the time of year...  
17  
18Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
19  
20Rose Stornant: ...that we went. Well, it was in March or April.  
21  
22Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
23  
24Rose Stornant: And, uh...  
25  
26Elsie Hornbacher: By that time...  
27  
28Rose Stornant: ...of course we had gone to the staging area first in Scotland.  
29  
30Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
31  
32Rose Stornant: And boy, when they played the Star-Spangled Banner at the parade that we  
33 were in there, well, there wasn't a dry eye on that, uh, field. [At this point  
34 6:00] you really get patriotic when you're away from home. [laughter]  
35  
36Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] That's for sure! That flag means a lot too.  
37  
38Rose Stornant: Oh boy. I'm telling you.  
39  
40Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
41  
42Rose Stornant: Well, anyway, after that we, uh, we went to Taunton and again, I was  
43 assigned to courts and boards but there were no court hearings there. But  
44 this, uh, Major, uh, Timothy...

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: [6:18] Rose, before you go on though, what were your living conditions  
3 like? Did you have a bedroom of your own?  
4  
5Rose Stornant: Are you kidding? We lived in Nissen huts.  
6  
7Elsie Hornbacher: [6:26] Oh, you lived in huts.  
8  
9Rose Stornant: We lived in Nissen huts with...  
10  
11Elsie Hornbacher: Nissen. [6:29] What's a Nissen hut?  
12  
13Rose Stornant: Well, it's a round hut, you know, the metal – the gray metal round hut.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: [6:35] Oh, you didn't live in this, uh, castle you [inaudible 6:37]  
16  
17Rose Stornant: Oh, no. We worked there.  
18  
19Elsie Hornbacher: You worked there. Alright.  
20  
21Rose Stornant: We worked there. And that was just down the – up the road a piece.  
22 [laughter]  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. I see.  
25  
26Rose Stornant: So, uh, no, we lived in Nissen huts, and there were – oh golly, there must  
27 have been about 20 in a hut. There were, uh, rows of beds on, on both sides,  
28 and they had these potbelly stoves in the middle; one or two. And, uh. No,  
29 that was...  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: [6:57] No bathrooms?  
32  
33Rose Stornant: Oh, we had out-, we had bathrooms separate from there.  
34  
35Elsie Hornbacher: [7:01] Outside?  
36  
37Rose Stornant: Yeah.  
38  
39Elsie Hornbacher: [7:02] Temporary?  
40  
41Rose Stornant: Well, I, I don't remember whether they were temporary.  
42  
43Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] Okay.  
44

1Rose Stornant: [laughter]  
2  
3Elsie Hornbacher: They could have stayed there for a long period of time alright.  
4  
5Rose Stornant: Uh, now wait a minute. I think they were, uh, they weren't, uh, you know...  
6  
7Elsie Hornbacher: [7:16] They hadn't been established before you came?  
8  
9Rose Stornant: I think they had been, yes.  
10  
11Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, you had – they had [inaudible 7:20]  
12  
13Rose Stornant: A-, and in, uh, in sorta square buildings.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
16  
17Rose Stornant: Mm-hm. And, uh.  
18  
19Elsie Hornbacher: [7:25] D-, did ya have hot water in there?  
20  
21Rose Stornant: Uh, huh, I don't remember. I don't remember.  
22  
23Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
24  
25Rose Stornant: Um.  
26  
27Elsie Hornbacher: That was an inconvenience many people put up with overseas.  
28  
29Rose Stornant: I know that we had a lot of cold water. I do recall that, but, uh...  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: [7:39] Where you [cool 7:39]?  
32  
33Rose Stornant: Another thing, another thing, uh, we – they had these Lyster bags, you  
34 know, hanging outside that you were supposed to drink water out of because  
35 the water was supposed to be contaminated.  
36  
37Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
38  
39Rose Stornant: Well, I never, never drank out of that water. I drank the contaminated water  
40 all the time I was in England...  
41  
42Elsie Hornbacher: [7:55] And you didn't get [inaudible 7:55].  
43

1Rose Stornant: ...and there were terrible stories going around, you know, about finding  
2 dead rats in the wells and stuff. [laughing]  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: [laughing]  
5  
6Rose Stornant: But those – that Lyster bag water was just like rotten eggs. It was terrible.  
7  
8Elsie Hornbacher: Yeah, we had to use it in Tokyo, too, for 2 years after.  
9  
10Rose Stornant: It was terrible, wasn't it?  
11  
12Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh.  
13  
14Rose Stornant: Anyhow...  
15  
16Elsie Hornbacher: It wasn't that bad. Not in Tokyo.  
17  
18Rose Stornant: It wasn't?  
19  
20Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-uh. No.  
21  
22Rose Stornant: Well, they probably...  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: Purified it better.  
25  
26Rose Stornant: Yeah. [laughter] Well anyway, uh, the Major, uh, dictated letters on, uh, oh  
27 how, how, uh, a soldier should act in the Service. I mean, these were the  
28 kind of letters that I got in Taunton. Then while I was in Taunton, my  
29 youngest brother was on his way overseas. I knew this. I knew that he was  
30 on his way overseas before I got back to, to my base in – see, I had gone to  
31 L.A. to visit with Vick 'cause I knew he was going overseas.  
32  
33Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
34  
35Rose Stornant: And when I came back to Lemoore, my friend had signed me up for  
36 overseas, and I got over there before Vick did. And so when he – when I  
37 heard from him that, you know, he was landing at such a place, so I wrote  
38 and told him how to get in touch with me, to call the Red Cross, you know.  
39 And, uh, so when I – one night when I was, uh, dressing to go into town,  
40 which was a couple miles away, my friend is on CQ and she comes running,  
41 'Rose, Rose, Vick is on the phone!' So I go running down the cobble path  
42 in my stocking feet [laughter] to – and she, uh, she acted just like she knew  
43 him, you know, from way back and, uh, so it was something. So Vick – uh,

1 we weren't in Taunton very long, just a couple months, and we were s-,  
2 transferred to Salzburg.  
3

4Elsie Hornbacher: [9:29] Oh, you mean you were in the same area with your brother for a  
5 couple'a months?  
6

7Rose Stornant: No, no. No. No. He was in mi-, in the Midlands.  
8

9Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, I see.  
10

11Rose Stornant: And, uh, he had come down to visit me, tsk, i-, i-, after we had, uh, moved  
12 to Salisbury. I – and I notified him where I could be reached and, uh, he and  
13 a friend of his who was on the same crew with him, [Coder 9:52] his name  
14 was, came visiting and they went out to the base which is a couple miles  
15 away from town, and my friend and I had gone into town for the first time  
16 and – having a great time looking over this British hamlet, you know. This  
17 was Salisbury, England. It was a lovely place and, uh, we ended up at the  
18 Red Cross. This is a great big place.  
19

20Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
21

22Rose Stornant: And, uh, when we went in, on the, on the main floor was this big dance  
23 going on where the G.I.s were dancing with the British gals, and, uh, we  
24 didn't bother going in there and then we went downstairs into this great big  
25 room with tables and then at one end, they had Coke machines! We spotted  
26 that Coke machine and we made a beeline for it because we had never seen  
27 – we hadn't had – seen Coca-Cola since we left the States...  
28

29Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
30

31Rose Stornant: ...and, uh, Vick and [Coder 10:40] were sitting at a table down there. They  
32 had been out to the base and of course I wasn't there, so they went back to  
33 the Red Cross, and they had talked to the Red Cross girl and they saw us  
34 coming in and so he sent his friend up to the, uh, counter to give us the ole  
35 one-two. They had tea and crumpets up there, you know, and, uh, so this  
36 cute fella comes up and he [says, "Hey there, Core pets," 10:59] and uh,  
37 same as my brother. 'So, what, what outfit are you in,' you know, and he  
38 tells me the next number to Vick's, and he gives me the ole one-two about  
39 being from Lansing, Michigan, and in – while I was picking out some  
40 crumpets, he, he wises up my friend. Uh, Vick is there, so she was wise to  
41 him. So, this is this great big room and we're walking across it w-, carrying  
42 these crumpets that we had picked out and, and Vick of course had stooped  
43 down so I wouldn't see him and as I approached, he straightened out and I  
44 just let out a scream when I saw him!



1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
3  
4Rose Stornant: And the Red Cross gal upstairs wondered what the fight was about, then she  
5 realized it must'a been me meeting my brother.  
6  
7Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
8  
9Rose Stornant: My friend, uh, [Zeek 11:38] I dubbed her in the Service, will never forget  
10 that.  
11  
12Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
13  
14Rose Stornant: She just, uh – when we get together, why, we go over all these things. But  
15 I'm telling you, this is my baby brother, and, uh, it was really something.  
16 But I got together with him...  
17  
18Elsie Hornbacher: It means a lot overseas.  
19  
20Rose Stornant: Oh, it sure does. He was flying with the 8th Air Corps. He was the  
21 engineer of their crew.  
22  
23Elsie Hornbacher: Rose, you're from a large family. [12:00] How many of your brothers, uh...  
24  
25Rose Stornant: There were three of my brothers in the Service.  
26  
27Elsie Hornbacher: [12:03] In the Service?  
28  
29Rose Stornant: I have five brothers.  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: Wow. And three in the Service?  
32  
33Rose Stornant: Four of us were in and the law of averages was against us, but we all came  
34 back. The Lord was good to us.  
35  
36Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, wonderful. [12:13] Were they – uh, what other areas...?  
37  
38Rose Stornant: They were in the air corps; all three of them. Um. My brother Tony was,  
39 uh, never got overseas. He was stationed in the States and he was a flying  
40 instructor, and he almost got sent to the same base where I was in  
41 Lemoore...  
42  
43Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
44

1Rose Stornant: ...but, um, uh, he just missed it. Anyway, he never got overseas and at the  
2 time the war ended, he was in fighter training. He was so itching to get into  
3 the fight, but I just thank the Lord that he never got in...  
4

5Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
6

7Rose Stornant: ...because the law of averages was really against us. Anyway, Sam was  
8 with the air transport command, and he was stationed in Cairo, Egypt. And  
9 Vick, uh, the youngest boy that I met in England, was, uh, flying with the  
10 8th Air Corps and they were bombing missions over Germany, and I really  
11 sweated that kid out, but I could go to the phone and p-, a-, and call him,  
12 you know. And when I first heard that he was there, I didn't have the nerve  
13 to go to the phone and call him. The Major kept tellin' me, "Why don't you  
14 go to the phone and call him? Why don't you go and call him?" So, my  
15 friend [Zeek 13:15] goes to the phone and calls [laughter] him.  
16

17Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] Oh, that was great!  
18

19Rose Stornant: Yeah.  
20

21Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
22

23Rose Stornant: Anyway, uh, uh, when he...  
24

25Elsie Hornbacher: [13:22] Could you do this at all times or just at certain periods of times?  
26

27Rose Stornant: No, I could do it at any time...  
28

29Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
30

31Rose Stornant: ...but I don't know whether Vick could on the other end. But he was, uh, he  
32 was stationed in the Midlands, and he came...  
33

34Elsie Hornbacher: [13:36] Where are the Midlands?  
35

36Rose Stornant: This is in Shakespeare country. That's in the middle of England.  
37

38Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, I see.  
39

40Rose Stornant: I never got to, uh, Stratford-on-Avon, but Vick did. But I went up to see  
41 him at, uh...  
42

43Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
44

1Rose Stornant: ...and I forget the name of the place now. Tsk. Anyway, while I was, uh,  
2visiting him at his base, I stayed with a Red Cross girl there. She had extra  
3room. And the funny part was in October where they were havin' a  
4Halloween party and the next morning the boys were scheduled for a deep  
5penetration, a DP they called it, into Germany on a mission, and as I lay in  
6bed, I heard the planes revving up and revving up. They never took off!  
7Pretty soon, the Red Cross girl knocks on the door. Your brother's out here.  
8They had scrubbed the mission, so Vick and, uh [Coder 14:20] were  
9[laughter] outside.  
10  
11Elsie Hornbacher: [14:21] By scrubbing, you mean canceled [inaudible 14:23].  
12  
13Rose Stornant: They had canceled the mission, yes.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Right, but the, the term is scrubbing [isn't it? 14:27]  
16  
17Rose Stornant: Yes. And then, uh, Vick said that they were scheduled for a, uh, slow  
18timing job. This is a skeleton crew going up with a plane to, uh, to break in  
19a new motor on the plane. So, I went up with'm on this, and it was really s-,  
20quite an experience. Uh. We flew all over England. You could see right  
21straight down and, uh, England has a beautiful countryside. Neatly tailored,  
22you know.  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
25  
26Rose Stornant: Anyway, um, uh, Vick gives me a flying suit to put on, and I put on this  
27flying suit and of course, it had a slit from here to here, you know...  
28  
29Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
30  
31Rose Stornant: ...but I had G.I. underwear on, so it didn't make any difference but the – uh,  
32one of the young officers was shocked to see me in that and – but I, I  
33wouldn't have wanted to be in anything else climbing u-, climbing up on  
34that truck to go out to the plane and then climbing up on that plane. It was  
35quite a climb!  
36  
37Elsie Hornbacher: Back in those days, uh, [laughter] uh, women wore dresses at all times,  
38didn't they?  
39  
40Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] Yeah, yeah.  
41  
42Rose Stornant: Anyhow, uh, Vick would, uh, show me all the spots on the plane and, uh, he  
43tried to get me to sit in the, uh, turret – the belly turret.  
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
2  
3Rose Stornant: I says nothing doing. [laughter] This is the, the bubble that hangs below the  
4 plane.  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
7  
8Rose Stornant: So we had Johnny [Hinkley 15:41] from Detroit who was the turret gunner  
9 get into it and he, he's curled up with that gun, then Vick closes the door on  
10 him and locks him in! And that poor kid is in that, uh, just hanging down  
11 from the plane, you know. If something happened, it'd just be too bad. So  
12 then we go to the tail gunner's seat and he says, "Go ahead. Sit in it." The  
13 seat is going up and down like this and they called the tail gunner Jeeters,  
14 [laughter], so you can understand why they called him Jeeters. He's a  
15 nervous wreck. That, that tail, uh, spot was just, hm, bumbling up and down  
16 all the time. Well then when we came down, Vick had me go on one side,  
17 he went on the other side, and he sh-, showed me what to do to lower the v-,  
18 wheel on that side while he lowered it on the other side. It was quite a, an  
19 experience. And too, I had gotten into the, uh, the nose of the plane, too,  
20 and I just don't remember the – and we forgot to [tune 16:33] in s-, uh, s-,  
21 uh, Axis Sally. We used – the boys used to hear Axis a lot and we forgot to  
22 [tune 16:40] her in. I would've liked to have heard that.  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
25  
26Rose Stornant: But that was quite an experience. So then, uh, I had planned to get together  
27 with Vick for Christmas, and I had, uh, been transferred...  
28  
29Elsie Hornbacher: [16:54] Is this '44? Christmas of '44?  
30  
31Rose Stornant: This is '44, but in November of '44, I was sent over to France, but v-, D-  
32 Day, th-, s-, n-, oh, I missed D-Day. D-Day in, uh, Salisbury, England. You  
33 know, uh, recently when they had all these things on TV about D-Day and  
34 about...  
35  
36Elsie Hornbacher: Yes.  
37  
38Rose Stornant: ...the paratroopers, we saw those gliders going by in droves loaded with  
39 paratroopers, and we knew where they were heading. We had met some of  
40 the boys in town.  
41  
42Elsie Hornbacher: [17:22] Oh, this is in June, isn't it, of '45?  
43  
44Rose Stornant: Yes, this is June of '44.

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: '44?  
3  
4Rose Stornant: Right.  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: Okay.  
7  
8Rose Stornant: D-Day is '44.  
9  
10Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, yes. Hm.  
11  
12Rose Stornant: And, uh.  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: [17:32] And you were in France then?  
15  
16Rose Stornant: No, I was in England. I was in Salisbury, England. See, some of our girls  
17 were sent down, uh, to the, uh...  
18  
19Elsie Hornbacher: Let me get these dates straight. [17:41] D-Day was '44.  
20  
21Rose Stornant: Absolutely. June 6th, 1944.  
22  
23Elsie Hornbacher: June 6th, 1944, and, uh, you were in, uh...  
24  
25Rose Stornant: Salisbury, England.  
26  
27Elsie Hornbacher: [17:52] On D-Day?  
28  
29Rose Stornant: Right.  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: I see. Okay.  
32  
33Rose Stornant: Yeah.  
34  
35Elsie Hornbacher: [17:55] But when did you go to France?  
36  
37Rose Stornant: In November.  
38  
39Elsie Hornbacher: November. Oh, that's after D-Day.  
40  
41Rose Stornant: Right.  
42  
43Elsie Hornbacher: Okay.  
44

1Rose Stornant: You see, uh, w-, uh, the WACs didn't get, uh, set up over there...  
2  
3Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
4  
5Rose Stornant: ...until – well, tsk, in the meantime, while, while we were stationed there,  
6 one of the girls that was stationed with us in California was secretary to the  
7 general in Europe, and she stopped to see us gals. She arranged for the  
8 General to, uh, request us by TWX, tsk, for certain jobs, so this is how I got  
9 to Paris. I flew over. Tsk. I didn't – [laughter] and my friend [Zeek 18:28],  
10 she went over on a boat and really roughed it on Omaha beach in tents like  
11 the boys did, and, uh, and another friend, uh, from New York went down to  
12 Plymouth.  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: [18:40] Were your, uh, restrictions, uh, changed, uh, drastically after D-  
15 Day?  
16  
17Rose Stornant: Well, not in England.  
18  
19Elsie Hornbacher: Not in England.  
20  
21Rose Stornant: No, because – uh, I did, uh, get to, uh, London with my brother Vick when  
22 he came to see me. We went back to London together...  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: I see.  
25  
26Rose Stornant: ...and we had our picture taken together in a studio in London.  
27  
28Elsie Hornbacher: [19:00] But you were sort of free – uh...  
29  
30Rose Stornant: Oh yes.  
31  
32Elsie Hornbacher: ...didn't you have, uh, orders to keep, uh, in the WACs?  
33  
34Rose Stornant: In England?  
35  
36Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
37  
38Rose Stornant: Well, I think that there was a bed check time.  
39  
40Elsie Hornbacher: [19:10] There were restrictions for [base] [inaudible 19:11].  
41  
42Rose Stornant: I think there was a bed check time.  
43  
44Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.

1  
2Rose Stornant: But th-, w-, uh, we lived out in the, uh, countryside, you know.  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
5  
6Rose Stornant: We had to go into town if you wanted to do anything.  
7  
8Elsie Hornbacher: I see.  
9  
10Rose Stornant: But, uh, when I...  
11  
12Elsie Hornbacher: [19:21] The restrictions, uh...  
13  
14Rose Stornant: There weren't really any restrictions in England...  
15  
16Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh. Th-, the...  
17  
18Rose Stornant: ...to speak of. There was bed check time.  
19  
20Elsie Hornbacher: ...more confining to you.  
21  
22Rose Stornant: No, no. There was bed check time, of course...  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: [I know 19:30].  
25  
26Rose Stornant: ...but, uh, in France there were no restrictions either. We were in a fancy  
27 hotel in France.  
28  
29Elsie Hornbacher: Oh goodness.  
30  
31Rose Stornant: [inaudible 19:37].  
32  
33Elsie Hornbacher: But let's go back to England now. [19:39] Um, uh, how did D-Day affect  
34 the people? You're in England at D-Day.  
35  
36Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
37  
38Elsie Hornbacher: [19:46] How – uh, what was your reaction when, uh, D-Day came?  
39  
40Rose Stornant: Well, uh...  
41  
42Elsie Hornbacher: [19:52] And e-, uh, the people of England's reaction.  
43

1Rose Stornant: Well, I don't know because we weren't that close with them. We were out  
2 in the country, you see.  
3

4Elsie Hornbacher: Out in the country. I see.  
5

6Rose Stornant: And we never really got close to anybody in England. Of all the closest I  
7 ever got to anybody in England was at a, a pub...  
8

9Elsie Hornbacher: I see.  
10

11Rose Stornant: ...you know. And th-, there were, uh, ladies serving behind the bar in these  
12 pubs.  
13

14Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
15

16Rose Stornant: We had never seen that before.  
17

18Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
19

20Rose Stornant: Of course, now we have that in this country.  
21

22Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
23

24Rose Stornant: But, um, no, and, and I met this, uh, RAF boy there, a little, little guy, and  
25 he was cute but you know there were, uh, uh, G.I.s in that place and they  
26 [laughter] were givin' him the ole one-two. [laughter] So what did this, this  
27 little meek boy do? He grabs me and he kisses me soundly [laughter] in  
28 front of these G.I.s. [laughter]  
29

30Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] [20:37] But then, uh, D-Day was nothing, uh...  
31

32Rose Stornant: No, it was nothing, uh, spectacular in, in England.  
33

34Elsie Hornbacher: I see.  
35

36Rose Stornant: Because i-, i-, the troops were going over from England.  
37

38Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
39

40Rose Stornant: Down on – uh, at Plymouth and, and on the – uh, at the – on the shorelines  
41 where they were crossing the, uh, Channel, that was where all the action  
42 was. Now, one of my friends was down there at Plymouth and, uh, she said  
43 that all the boys had their heads shaven, you know, before going across  
44 'cause they never knew when they'd get a haircut again. But, um, anyway,



1 one – uh, when, uh, this Vinny, this Italian boy that was with the  
2 paratroopers, when they came back from the D-Day mission, we met the  
3 boys in town and he c-, they cried on our shoulders telling w-, the terrible  
4 things they had seen. Apparently, he was not a paratrooper; musta been a  
5 mechanic ‘cause he came back. Tsk. And, uh, h-, they saw some of their  
6 boys get their heads chopped off by their own propellers; something like  
7 this! So, when they came back, they gave them – they gave all of them a  
8 bottle of whiskey, you know, to forget their woes. Well, these boys just  
9 cried on our shoulders about these things that they had seen.  
10  
11Elsie Hornbacher: I can understand.  
12  
13Rose Stornant: He was just a kid, really...  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
16  
17Rose Stornant: ...and I don’t know what ever happened to that boy. I mean, we just saw  
18 them, uh, twice.  
19  
20Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
21  
22Rose Stornant: Well anyway, this friend, uh, had the General request me by TWX for the,  
23 uh, judge advocate in Paris and when I got over there, we landed – our plane  
24 landed at Le Bourget where Lindbergh landed. And we s-, on the way into –  
25 from Le Bourget to Paris, we saw German tanks, you know, on the roadside  
26 that had been, uh, put out. We saw quite a bit of destruction, but, uh, then  
27 when I get – when we get into Paris, I forget now just where we were, where  
28 they had landed us, but anyway, this one girl that was stationed in California  
29 with me spotted me and took me under her wing, and she took me to the, uh,  
30 uh, adjutant general’s office and I s-, told her I was just supposed to be  
31 going to the judge advocate’s office, but this man didn’t pay any attention to  
32 us. Is this still running?  
33  
34Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
35  
36Rose Stornant: Yeah. Didn’t pay any attention. He assigned me to, uh, statistics, would  
37 you believe?  
38  
39Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
40  
41Rose Stornant: I was in statistics exactly three days while in the meantime, my friend was  
42 working for the General and, uh, I had gone to up see her, uh, and had met  
43 the g-, I – uh, the General wasn’t in, but he came in while I was there and I  
44 met him and, uh, of course this is getting ahead of my story. I’ll go back to

1 when I first – these, uh, statistics were a bunch of, uh, uh, young, uh, young  
2 men. I can – I can't think now. Well, the head of the department was a  
3 good-looking man with red hair, beautiful red hair, tsk, and he called me in  
4 for an interview the minute I got there and, uh, he was asking me all k-, I,  
5 uh, never have smoked a cigarette up to this point. He offered me a  
6 cigarette, and I took it. [laughter] [throat clearing] And so I'd watch him and  
7 every time he'd take a puff, I'd take a puff. [laughter]  
8  
9 Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
10  
11 Rose Stornant: Anyhow, the girls nearly bit my head off when I went over with only one  
12 carton of cigarettes 'cause I could've brought two over.  
13  
14 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
15  
16 Rose Stornant: And, uh, I, I just didn't think about. You know, I wasn't smoking then.  
17  
18 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
19  
20 Rose Stornant: And I didn't start until one of the g-, one, one of my roommates just kept  
21 bugging me, 'Oh, come on, Rose. Hell.' 'Come on, Rose. Hell.'  
22  
23 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
24  
25 Rose Stornant: So, I finally started, but I could take it or leave it, you know, then. Anyhow,  
26 this – uh, I forget this man's name who was the head of, uh, statistics, but he  
27 was, uh, comparing their operation with DuPont and oh, you know, putting  
28 on a big [folderol 24:19] for me. And then, uh, he said – I was in there a  
29 good, long time. He said to me, "When you hear two buzzes, that means  
30 you're to come in here for dictation." So, I get back to my desk and buzz,  
31 buzz. I says, "Was that two buzzes?" And he said, "Yeah." Oh, I gotta go  
32 get d-, uh, take dictation. I grabbed my book and I went in, and his desk  
33 was [crowded 24:37] so that I couldn't put my book on his desk, so I put the  
34 book on my knee, and he was reading a form letter and going like a bat outta  
35 hell. I said, 'Wow, you old so-and-so, I'll show you,' you know. [laughter]  
36 I was very careful with that, and I, uh, was very careful that I didn't make a  
37 mistake because it had to be perfect, and I come to the end of the page and,  
38 uh, of course overseas, you turn the page over and you wrote on the back to  
39 preserve – to conserve paper. So, I said to myself, 'Now, shall I use another  
40 page or shall I do it on the back?' Well, I better do it on the back, so I did.  
41 And I'm not nearly through and he comes to the door and looks at me, and  
42 I'm perfectly calm, cool, and collected and I says, "I'll be through with this  
43 in a minute." And, uh, so he goes back and I'm through and I take, take,  
44 take it back. I made sure that it was perfect so he couldn't find anything

1 wrong with it, so he comes back and tells me that I should have used a,  
2 another page for the second page instead of doing it on the back. [laughter]  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] [throat clearing]  
5  
6Rose Stornant: Well, anyway, I was there, I was there exactly three days. This young  
7 Lieutenant Hill who I was secretary to was really a nice guy, and, uh, I had  
8 gone down to the, uh, general's office to visit with Trudy and I said to the  
9 General after I met him, I said, "Do you mind if go home? I've got nothing  
10 to do." He said, "No! If you've got nothing to do, you go home." So, I  
11 went back and I was tellin' these young, these young lads that the General  
12 said I could go home. [laughter] [You could've finished it. 26:06]  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] [throat clearing]  
15  
16Rose Stornant: [laughter] So, I went home and the General had a staff meeting and, uh, he  
17 says to the judge advocate, "How do you like your new secretary?" He  
18 says, "New secretary? I haven't got a new secretary." Well then the, then  
19 the fur started to fly. [laughter] Well, the next day I was in the judge  
20 advocate's office. [laughter] I'm telling you. So, but I t-, I reported courts  
21 martial in Paris, the – uh, j-, special courts. The general courts were, uh – I  
22 sat in on a general court once in California with, with [Harry 26:40].  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: [26:40] What's the difference between a special court and a general court?  
25  
26Rose Stornant: There is a big difference. Uh. In a special court, you don't have to get it  
27 verbatim. Tsk. Uh, you – when you transcribe your notes, you put down,  
28 uh, that such-and-such was said. You don't have to put it verbatim. But  
29 you, you type – you write verbatim as much as possible, see.  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
32  
33Rose Stornant: But in a general court, you have a board of officers – uh, well, you do in a,  
34 you do in a, in a special court too. You have a board of officers. It's the  
35 colonel – Colonel [Maple 27:12], oh he was such a nice guy. And then there  
36 were other officers in the – I, I forget and I think there were about five on  
37 the special court, but in the general court there is a, uh, tsk, a court officer. I  
38 forget whether they – what they called him. He was m-, more or less of a, a  
39 law officer, you know. Tsk, and, uh, at one hearing in California, I sat in  
40 with Harry [inaudible 27:35] and, uh, at one point I just put my pen down  
41 and he said, "[inaudible 27:39] keep writing! Keep writing!" [laughter]  
42  
43Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
44

1Rose Stornant: So, I started writing again. [laughter] But you know, uh, i-, i-, it was people  
2 talking, uh, uh, you know, a lot. You didn't know who was saying what.  
3 Anyhow, uh, in, uh...  
4

5Elsie Hornbacher: [27:55] And this is still in Paris?  
6

7Rose Stornant: No, that was in, uh – I w-, I just went back to California for that one, uh,  
8 general court that I sat in, but I never took a general court in Paris.  
9

10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
11

12Rose Stornant: It was also the special courts and the, and the, uh, the summary courts didn't  
13 require a hearing. I used to type up the, the orders for them and, uh. Whoa.  
14

15Elsie Hornbacher: [28:19] What were some of the nature of these trials?  
16

17Rose Stornant: Well the, uh, the summary courts, uh, were mostly AWOLs.  
18

19Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.  
20

21Rose Stornant: AWOLs. Now, uh, on the, uh special...  
22

23Elsie Hornbacher: Away without leave.  
24

25Rose Stornant: Yes. Actions without leave.  
26

27Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
28

29Rose Stornant: And the, the special courts – I had two cases that really stand out that were  
30 quite funny. One case, uh, was – uh, one of the girls in our office – we were  
31 just two girls. Tsk. I was one and then Peg [inaudible 28:42], who was a  
32 Scottish girl, and, uh, she, she was an American citizen. Her folks had come  
33 on to, uh, to this country years before, and she, uh, of course, was interested  
34 in going to Scotland, so she was on the boat crossing the Channel to  
35 Scotland and here's this G.I. impersonating a Colonel on the boat and, and  
36 Peg had to, uh, be a witness in this trial. [laughter]  
37

38Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
39

40Rose Stornant: It was really funny! [laughter]  
41

42Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
43

1Rose Stornant: And, and, uh, the, uh, when the Major read the, the, uh, you know, the  
2 hearing – the court hearing, he sat in his room and he, ‘Ha, ha, ha. Peggy!  
3 Come in here!’ [laughter]  
4

5Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
6

7Rose Stornant: Oh, I’m telling you. Uh, this, uh, uh, fake Colonel approached Peggy, and I  
8 don’t remember now what when on, but it was really funny because Peggy  
9 was a real quiet girl, you know, and [laughter] that was one case. And the  
10 other case was, uh, against a, uh, a member of the U.S. Army Band who was  
11 drunk on duty and fell off his chair during a performance. [laughter]  
12

13Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
14

15Rose Stornant: Well, this one – this fellow used to bug me. We used to go into the Red  
16 Cross, you know, a lot and he’d always be there, and he’d, he’d, he’d bug us  
17 about we didn’t do anything in, in the Service and what were we doing and  
18 stuff like this, see. And, uh, so, he’s b-, on trial and I’m taking the hearing,  
19 [laughter] so you can imagine, uh, I guess he knew what I did in the Service  
20 then. Anyway, he had a General come in and testify for him and it, it  
21 happened – the story goes that he had a headache and he went into a French  
22 bar and told the guy that he had a headache and the guy gave him some  
23 anisette for his headache – this is a whiskey. And, uh, he got, uh, he got  
24 cracked on the anisette...  
25

26Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
27

28Rose Stornant: ...so he falls off his chair [laughter] in the performance. [laughter] So...  
29

30Elsie Hornbacher: [30:33] Do you remember what, uh, uh...  
31

32Rose Stornant: Huh?  
33

34Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh, i-, w-, uh, was any punishment made out to him?  
35

36Rose Stornant: He was acquitted.  
37

38Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, he was acquitted.  
39

40Rose Stornant: He was acquitted because the – of his years of service. He was in the, the  
41 army 15 years and, uh, he had good, uh, a good record and of course the  
42 General came in to, uh, testify for him. He was acquitted but just the same,  
43 I got a bang out of that because this guy used to just [laughter] turn me off,  
44 you know?

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
3  
4Rose Stornant: He used to just bug me at the Red Cross...  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
7  
8Rose Stornant: ...about the WACs not being any good and stuff.  
9  
10Elsie Hornbacher: [31:05] Now you're still in, uh...  
11  
12Rose Stornant: Paris.  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: ...Paris. [inaudible 31:08]  
15  
16Rose Stornant: Yes, and, uh, [sniffing] during the...  
17  
18Elsie Hornbacher: After the war...  
19  
20Rose Stornant: No, this is during the war.  
21  
22Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, you're – a, oh, this is before D-Day.  
23  
24Rose Stornant: Oh, this is during the war. No, this is after D-Day. We went over to Paris.  
25  
26Elsie Hornbacher: After D-Day. Oh, right. But, uh, it's after the war in Europe.  
27  
28Rose Stornant: Tsk. No, ma'am. This is when we got into the war in Europe.  
29  
30Elsie Hornbacher: Okay.  
31  
32Rose Stornant: We were – uh, uh, the war was going on when I got there...  
33  
34Elsie Hornbacher: I see.  
35  
36Rose Stornant: ...but, uh, uh, Paris didn't, uh, get any, uh, bombing or anything although  
37 we had, uh, uh, blackouts, which were brownouts in Paris. I mean, you  
38 could [laughter], you could really see. But, uh, during the Battle of the  
39 Bulge, it was a very scary period.  
40  
41Elsie Hornbacher: [31:49] Uh. Uh, Rose, uh, I guess I'm a little confused, uh, uh, with, uh, D-  
42 Day and V-E Day.  
43

1Rose Stornant: Well, D-Day was June 4th, 1944, in England and that was when the boys  
2crossed the Channel to – for the invasion of France.  
3

4Elsie Hornbacher: Okay.  
5

6Rose Stornant: Now, V-E – uh, uh, we haven't come to V-E Day yet.  
7

8Elsie Hornbacher: Okay.  
9

10Rose Stornant: During the Battle of the Bulge, as I was saying before, it was a scary period  
11and there was a curfew on in Paris. A 9:00 curfew and everybody had to be  
12off the streets because there was a report that Germans were walking around  
13in our uniforms. Well, they caught up with a few. In fact, I saw one in the  
14headquarters – in our headquarters one day. He was just a kid. Looked just  
15like one of our boys, one of our American boys, and they had caught up with  
16him.  
17

18Elsie Hornbacher: [inaudible 32:44] What did they do to that German boy who was walking  
19around in an American uniform?  
20

21Rose Stornant: I really don't know – I, I imagine he was taken prisoner.  
22

23Elsie Hornbacher: I see. [32:51] Prisoner of war then?  
24

25Rose Stornant: Yeah.  
26

27Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
28

29Rose Stornant: Yeah. Anyway, uh...  
30

31Elsie Hornbacher: [32:56] He wasn't harmful, was he?  
32

33Rose Stornant: He didn't look harmful at all, no.  
34

35Elsie Hornbacher: I see.  
36

37Rose Stornant: Uh-uh.  
38

39Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] Just, just tryin' to get away from it all.  
40

41Rose Stornant: [laughter]  
42

43Elsie Hornbacher: You can't blame him.  
44

1Rose Stornant: He was probably glad to be caught up with, you know. [laughter] The poor  
2 kid. [laughter]  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
5  
6Rose Stornant: Anyhow, um. Th-, there were a few occasions that were quite memorable in  
7 Paris. Uh, Bastille Day was one, you know. They had parades and they –  
8 uh, it was really something. Had dancing in the streets at night. It was  
9 quite, uh...  
10  
11Elsie Hornbacher: [33:25] It was in July of '44.  
12  
13Rose Stornant: Yeah. July 14th of '44.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
16  
17Rose Stornant: On Bastille Day. That was – it was a gala day in Paris. We went to the  
18 Place de la Bastille– that's all it is now, just a place, you know, it's a, a big  
19 center with a square – a big square with a monument in it. There's no prison  
20 there anymore, of course.  
21  
22Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
23  
24Rose Stornant: And, uh, gosh we walked back from there w-, back to our area and that must  
25 have been miles and miles and I don't think I ever went back to the b-, to  
26 Bastille after that. I remember that night we danced in the streets.  
27  
28Elsie Hornbacher: [33:54] Is this outside of Paris?  
29  
30Rose Stornant: No, this is in Paris.  
31  
32Elsie Hornbacher: [33:57] In – uh, right in the, uh, h-, heart of Paris?  
33  
34Rose Stornant: Well, I was near the heart of Paris, but, uh, the Bastille was a ways out.  
35  
36Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
37  
38Rose Stornant: You see, I was near the Arc de Triomphe.  
39  
40Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
41  
42Rose Stornant: My, my hotel was this gorgeous hotel. It, uh, it had a glass elevator with  
43 wrought iron. It was just beautiful. Anyhow, uh, we were on the first floor,



1 which is the second floor there, and we had the suite on a corner. [It's really]  
2 [inaudible 34:23]  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: [34:24] Private bath and all?  
5  
6Rose Stornant: Oh yes! Oh yes!  
7  
8Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, wonderful. You were living it up in Paris.  
9  
10Rose Stornant: Oh, we were! I'm telling you.  
11  
12Elsie Hornbacher: [34:31] And no sign of war there?  
13  
14Rose Stornant: Not really.  
15  
16Elsie Hornbacher: Not really.  
17  
18Rose Stornant: Uh-uh.  
19  
20Elsie Hornbacher: [34:35] This is '44? Mm-hm.  
21  
22Rose Stornant: No, this is now in early '45.  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, early '45.  
25  
26Rose Stornant: Yeah.  
27  
28Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
29  
30Rose Stornant: Uh, in '44 when I went to London with Vick, w-, n-, there was some buzz  
31 about going overhead and make a beeline for the, uh...  
32  
33Elsie Hornbacher: Shelters?  
34  
35Rose Stornant: ...shelters.  
36  
37Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
38  
39Rose Stornant: But, uh, the, the British, you know, they just walk along like it was an  
40 everyday occurrence and when I d-, got off the train when I went to, uh,  
41 London one other time – we were transferred there for a few days, and we  
42 got off the train and we heard boom! And I asked this, uh, Limey we  
43 called'm, what was that? He says, "V2." That was the second, uh, what did  
44 they call those, missiles...

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
3  
4Rose Stornant: ...that the Germans were sending over. You didn't hear them approach.  
5 You did the V1s, but the V2s, you didn't hear them until they landed and  
6 that landed quite close to the railroad [laughter] station 'cause we heard it.  
7  
8Elsie Hornbacher: [35:31] Did they do a great deal of damage when they hit?  
9  
10Rose Stornant: Well the do ordinarily. Of course, I didn't see where they hit.  
11  
12Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
13  
14Rose Stornant: We were at the station getting back to Paris and, and, uh, Bastille Day.  
15 Remember, we were dancing in the streets. And we went to the – uh, the  
16 Eiffel Tower had a, uh, WAC/G.I. club on the second – on the first landing,  
17 and it was quite a – you could look all over Paris and that from there. It was  
18 open, of course, and, uh they served champagne and they – I think it sold for  
19 about twenty bucks a bottle.  
20  
21Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
22  
23Rose Stornant: But the G.I.s forked over twenty bucks for it. And they had dancing up  
24 there. It was really something. Uh. So...  
25  
26Elsie Hornbacher: [36:16] Rose, what was your, uh, rank in the army? You were a WAC?  
27  
28Rose Stornant: I was a, uh – yes, I was a WAC, and I ended up as a, uh, [T Sergeant 36:24]  
29 – as a technician 4th class.  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: Technician 4th class.  
32  
33Rose Stornant: Yes, they call it, uh, buck sergeant.  
34  
35Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
36  
37Rose Stornant: According to the TO, the table of organization, I should'a been a master  
38 sergeant, but I never pushed for promotion, you know. I don't care.  
39 [laughter]  
40  
41Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
42

1Rose Stornant: And a-, and at one time, they were giving direct commissions, and the Major  
2called me in and wanted to know if I was interested and I said, “No, I’d  
3rather, I’d rather not.” [laughter]  
4  
5Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [36:52] Do you happen to remember your wages overseas?  
6  
7Rose Stornant: Oh, it was very minimal. I think it was only around \$40 a month.  
8  
9Elsie Hornbacher: Forty a month. [36:58] Uh, this was all clear. All expenses were taken care  
10of except your, um...?  
11  
12Rose Stornant: Oh yeah.  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
15  
16Rose Stornant: Oh yeah. And I used to send it home...  
17  
18Elsie Hornbacher: Pleasure. Mm-hm.  
19  
20Rose Stornant: ...I, I think I just kept maybe five bucks.  
21  
22Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
23  
24Rose Stornant: And I sent it home and my sister banked it for me.  
25  
26Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
27  
28Rose Stornant: [inaudible 37:15]  
29  
30Elsie Hornbacher: Back in those days...  
31  
32Rose Stornant: The salary was very minimal.  
33  
34Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh, \$40 a week would’ve been normal salary in the States.  
35  
36Rose Stornant: In those days?  
37  
38Elsie Hornbacher: Yes. Uh-huh. I remember in 1943...  
39  
40Rose Stornant: Well, I, I think I was getting \$155 a month in the AG’s office when I left to  
41go overseas.  
42  
43Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. ‘Course you had no living expenses, so everything was clear.  
44

1Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
2  
3Elsie Hornbacher: [37:36] Your clothing furnished or did you...  
4  
5Rose Stornant: Oh yes.  
6  
7Elsie Hornbacher: ...have to pay for that?  
8  
9Rose Stornant: Oh no. Officers had to b-, buy their own clothes, but not, uh, enlisted  
10 personnel.  
11  
12Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
13  
14Rose Stornant: Uh.  
15  
16Elsie Hornbacher: [37:47] And you don't remember much about Christmas of '44 over there  
17 then at all?  
18  
19Rose Stornant: No, it's just that they had, uh, a special dinner for us.  
20  
21Elsie Hornbacher: I see. But it was...  
22  
23Rose Stornant: I've got the menu someplace yet.  
24  
25Elsie Hornbacher: [37:55] More of the same? They had a Christmas tree up somewhere?  
26  
27Rose Stornant: I think so. I don't re-, recall now.  
28  
29Elsie Hornbacher: I see.  
30  
31Rose Stornant: But they must have had.  
32  
33Elsie Hornbacher: [38:02] And it was nothing special.  
34  
35Rose Stornant: No, just a special, uh...  
36  
37Elsie Hornbacher: Dinner.  
38  
39Rose Stornant: ...dinner. I think we had turkey and the trimmings.  
40  
41Elsie Hornbacher: [38:08] You ate well.  
42

1Rose Stornant: Yes, and, uh, overseas, if you didn't eat everything on your plate, it was a  
2 court-martial offense and sometimes your eyes were bigger than your  
3 stomach, you know.  
4

5Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
6

7Rose Stornant: And I learned to eat – uh, clear everything on my plate. To this day, I clear  
8 everything on my plate. I only take a little bit.  
9

10Elsie Hornbacher: Um.  
11

12Rose Stornant: Because people were starving all around us.  
13

14Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
15

16Rose Stornant: In fact, uh, one day I saw a well-dressed old lady rummaging through, uh,  
17 uh, garbage right on the Champs-Élysées.  
18

19Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
20

21Rose Stornant: It was pathetic. And boy, the, the way they drive over there. You get honk,  
22 honk, honk all the way up the street to tell you they're coming, you know?  
23

24Elsie Hornbacher: [38:50] Were there quite a few cars in, uh, France?  
25

26Rose Stornant: Oh, in – not – no, really.  
27

28Elsie Hornbacher: [38:53] In Paris?  
29

30Rose Stornant: I'm th-, I'm thinking of after the war, 'cause I went over after the war.  
31

32Elsie Hornbacher: [38:57] But during the war, there weren't many, were there?  
33

34Rose Stornant: No, and those that, uh, were, were propelled by gas and some-, and I saw  
35 one pedaling their car [laughter].  
36

37Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] [39:07] Did they have charcoal burners over there?  
38

39Rose Stornant: Yeah. Yeah.  
40

41Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, they did. Like they did in Japan. Uh-huh. [laughter]  
42

43Rose Stornant: Yeah. Yeah. [laughter]  
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: Well, you know, I understand that some of the, um, uh, French people  
2 buried their cars so they would be safe after the war.  
3  
4Rose Stornant: Oh really?  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: Oh [inaudible 39:21].  
7  
8Rose Stornant: I never heard that.  
9  
10Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh.  
11  
12Rose Stornant: No, I never heard that.  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: I, uh, hadn't heard it either until someone up in, uh...  
15  
16Rose Stornant: Hm.  
17  
18Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh, my hometown b-, uh, st-, I mean had a very - bought a very expensive  
19 car...  
20  
21Rose Stornant: Well, I don't blame them, do you? [laughter]  
22  
23Elsie Hornbacher: ...buried it, and, uh, tried to claim insurance on it [laughter]...  
24  
25Rose Stornant: [laughter]  
26  
27Elsie Hornbacher: ...and [laughter] his brother – brother-in-law squealed on him. [laughter]  
28  
29Rose Stornant: Oh my goodness. [laughter]  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: And then, uh, later I heard that, uh, they did this in Europe in order to  
32 safeguard the...  
33  
34Rose Stornant: W-, I wouldn't be surprised.  
35  
36Elsie Hornbacher: ...cars until after the war.  
37  
38Rose Stornant: I wouldn't be surprised.  
39  
40Elsie Hornbacher: Until after the war. Mm-hm.  
41  
42Rose Stornant: Yeah. That's really funny, isn't it? [laughter]  
43  
44Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]

1  
2Rose Stornant: Oh, gosh. I've lost my train of thought.  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: Well, now you're in, uh, 1944...  
5  
6Rose Stornant: '45. We're in '45.  
7  
8Elsie Hornbacher: ...'45 now, uh, alright.  
9  
10Rose Stornant: And now let's get to, uh – well one time, they had a big parade in Paris. It  
11 must have been on Bastille Day.  
12  
13Elsie Hornbacher: Well that would've been in July of '44.  
14  
15Rose Stornant: Yeah. July 14th.  
16  
17Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
18  
19Rose Stornant: I can't, I can't remember whether that was the occasion or not, but you  
20 know that the, uh, Parisians, they all rushed down from the wee, uh, hours of  
21 the morning to the Champs-Élysées t-, uh, to get their places. They're  
22 carrying chairs and ladders and whatnot to get their places to see the parade  
23 and...  
24  
25Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
26  
27Rose Stornant: ...really, the parades are s-, uh, something to see there. They'd have  
28 African troops, uh, marching and everything.  
29  
30Elsie Hornbacher: Hm.  
31  
32Rose Stornant: And, uh, so when, uh, V-E Day comes, this is really the occasion. Three-  
33 day celebration. I'm telling you. Well, on this other – the other parade, we  
34 couldn't get across the Champs-Élysées. We had to take a Metro, an  
35 underground, to get across to the office. [laughter]  
36  
37Elsie Hornbacher: Hm.  
38  
39Rose Stornant: And only just a few blocks away, which we ordinarily would walk, see.  
40  
41Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
42  
43Rose Stornant: But anyway, our hote-, -tel was right near the Arc...  
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: [40:59] S-, streets were so crowded you couldn't get across, was that it?  
2  
3Rose Stornant: On a parade day, yes.  
4  
5Elsie Hornbacher: On a parade day. Hm.  
6  
7Rose Stornant: So, on the – on V-E Day, there was really celebration in Paris, three days of  
8 it. Three solid days and gosh, I think we had gone to the Place de la Bastille  
9 and had climbed on the back'a cars and were – we're just creeping along,  
10 you know, the Champs-Élysées when we got there and course the French  
11 were, uh, very agreeable to having us climb on their cars, you know.  
12  
13Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
14  
15Rose Stornant: And it was really something. And there was dancing in the streets and, uh,  
16 I'll never forget this, uh, one Russian soldier coming down and, uh, standing  
17 up in a jeep just like he'd won the war all by himself. I'll never forget that  
18 sight. He was coming down the Champs-Élysées. [laughter] Anyway, that  
19 was really a time of celebration. Well, we had gone to see some of the boys  
20 that, uh, were in hospitals that had been prisoners and had come, you know.  
21 We were dancing in the streets for them, too. Then I was there on V-J Day.  
22 That wasn't a big, uh, celebration day for anybody around Paris like V-E  
23 Day was, but of course the G.I.s and the WACs were. And, uh, we had this  
24 favorite place, La [inaudible 42:14] and they used to serve La [inaudible  
25 42:17] cocktails and these boys that we had met had been stationed in  
26 Germany. They were on their way to England to, to visit some people that  
27 they had met there, but they never got to England. They spent it in France  
28 with us all [laughter] week. We had a great time [with the boys 42:32].  
29 But, uh, then they had come back to Paris on V-J Day, and I get a telephone  
30 call from this friend and – telling me that he's at La [inaudible 42:42] and he  
31 says, "Come on down." I said, "Nothing doing." [laughter] So he comes up  
32 and – to get me. He walks right into my room, you know. I said,  
33 "[inaudible 42:50], what are you doing?" You know? [laughter]  
34  
35Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
36  
37Rose Stornant: So, then we walked back to – this is near the – when I went back to, to  
38 France in 1961, do you think I could find that place? I thought it was near  
39 the, uh, the opera. The opera? And it was, I guess, around the corner and  
40 down the street a ways, I found out later from a friend of mine who was with  
41 me there. But then, uh, comes – this is August, the V-G Day – V-J Day is in  
42 August, August 14th, and I can't remember anything spectacular happening  
43 after that. Oh, yes! I went to Reims on pass and – to meet this friend who  
44 was stationed at, uh, Camp Philip Morris. The camps were named after



1 cigarettes, and it was about 30 miles away. So, I went out there by bus and  
2 they, they drove me back to Reims, it was Reims, to Reims in a jeep. Thirty  
3 miles in open air, you know. I got to Paris and I had lost my voice from  
4 riding in that jeep.  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
7  
8Rose Stornant: I ended up in the American hospital there only because I had, uh, had a  
9 cramp in my side the night before and they thought it was appendicitis;  
10 that's why I landed in the hospital. But they had put me over in a – they had  
11 this great big, uh, oh, what do you call this stuff that steams? You know, to  
12 steam your...?  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: A vaporizer?  
15  
16Rose Stornant: Vaporizer, yeah. A great big thing. Th-, they put a towel over your head  
17 and you were to breathe that in deeply...  
18  
19Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
20  
21Rose Stornant: ...for 20 minutes at a time, three times a day. Do you know the next day I  
22 got my voice back?  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: That would be good. Mm-hm.  
25  
26Rose Stornant: It was really funny. Yeah. Yeah. Well anyway, then comes time –  
27 everybody's – the k-, point system comes out and everybody's anxious to  
28 get home. We didn't expect to get home for another year, you know. Tsk.  
29  
30Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
31  
32Rose Stornant: And so, the point system comes out and, uh, so we're anxious to get home.  
33 I had 40-some points, 43 I guess. I don't remember what we had – I had.  
34 Anyhow, uh, my brother Sam was in Egypt, and I had, hadn't seen him yet.  
35 I had gotten together with my brother Tony in Muskogee, Oklahoma, when I  
36 was in the States and with Vick in L.A. and also in England. But Sam – uh,  
37 so Sam was planning to come to Paris, and I knew this. And here we had  
38 our orders to go home. You know that we both left Paris the same day. He  
39 came the last week I was in Paris...  
40  
41Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.  
42  
43Rose Stornant: ...and we both left Paris the same day. He went back to Cairo, and I came  
44 home.

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
3  
4Rose Stornant: But, uh, we had a great time that weekend. We, we were walking down, uh,  
5 near the, uh, oh what is that place? W-, we were walking on the Rue de la  
6 Paix, uh, where they had this Red Cross place where we usually ended up.  
7 We were walking down the street and here's a, a kid who lived down the  
8 corners, uh, from us in Lansing. He says, "Your name wouldn't happen to  
9 be Stornant, would it?" [laughter] It's a small world.  
10  
11Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] Oh, it's great seeing people overseas. Mm-hm.  
12  
13Rose Stornant: It's a small world. Bob, uh, Phillips.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
16  
17Rose Stornant: And so, uh, he, uh, he came with us and so they took me home and then the  
18 boys went out that night. They went to the Club [Lido 45:51], which I had  
19 heard about, and I had never been there. And, uh, of course, they had, uh,  
20 girls walking around in G-strings waiting on table and they'd sit on the  
21 boy's laps and things like this.  
22  
23Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
24  
25Rose Stornant: We'd heard about it. And the boys didn't want, want me to go. [laughter]  
26  
27Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter] But you had [laughter] [heard what was going on 46:09].  
28  
29Rose Stornant: Well, I had, I had never been there, but I had been to the, uh, Club  
30 [inaudible 46:12]...  
31  
32Elsie Hornbacher: Oh yes.  
33  
34Rose Stornant: ...where they had all these, uh, gals walkin' around in G-strings, but they  
35 had a beautiful act in this – they had this one girl that was dressed up in this  
36 old-fashioned outfit with a big picture hat, and she was s-, swinging from  
37 the ceiling and it was just beautiful. And, uh, we had gone, uh, up there  
38 with, uh, two of the boys who had come in from the front lines, you know,  
39 and they looked so pathetic when they first come in. We meet'm at the Red  
40 Cross, and they go in, they'd shower and you clean up, and so we go out  
41 with'm. We took'm to the Club [inaudible 46:44], and we were sitting in  
42 the balcony and those poor boys were embarrassed to death. They'd look  
43 and they'd see these naked girls. They'd look back and we, we didn't pay  
44 any attention, see, but they were embarrassed to tears! Well then when Sam

1 came to Paris, I took the boys there, and, uh, well, uh, Bob was dancing with  
2 me. Some, uh, lieutenant, 2nd Louie, goes up to my brother Sam, who was  
3 a Master Sergeant, and he says what do you mean bringing an American girl  
4 in here? Sam says, "That American girl happens to be my sister, and I'll  
5 take her any damn place I please." [laughter]  
6  
7Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
8  
9Rose Stornant: He didn't tell me this 'til after we came home. [laughter] [inaudible 47:22]  
10 That was pretty cute. [laughter] Anyway, Sam was flying with the – uh, they  
11 were flying supplies.  
12  
13Elsie Hornbacher: [47:29] And what month is this in '45?  
14  
15Rose Stornant: This is in November of '45 just before I came home.  
16  
17Elsie Hornbacher: November of '45.  
18  
19Rose Stornant: I had left...  
20  
21Elsie Hornbacher: Just – p-, well didn't you – weren't you in Nuremburg?  
22  
23Rose Stornant: Oh no. I'd never gotten to Germany.  
24  
25Elsie Hornbacher: Oh. For some reason or other I thought you were at the, uh, war, uh...  
26  
27Rose Stornant: No.  
28  
29Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh, trials in... Oh.  
30  
31Rose Stornant: No. I wanted to get over there. One of my r-, uh, roommates was stationed  
32 in Germany.  
33  
34Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [47:50] Then how long were you overseas altogether?  
35  
36Rose Stornant: About 19 months.  
37  
38Elsie Hornbacher: Nineteen months.  
39  
40Rose Stornant: I was in Paris a whole year.  
41  
42Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [47:56] Were you homesick during any of that, uh, time?  
43  
44Rose Stornant: Never.

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: Never homesick.  
3  
4Rose Stornant: Never.  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: There was always enough action in the army.  
7  
8Rose Stornant: Well, and then the – and the girls were like family.  
9  
10Elsie Hornbacher: Yes. Uh, that is true.  
11  
12Rose Stornant: And they still are! I've gotten together with'm.  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
15  
16Rose Stornant: Gosh. W-, uh, uh, for a while there, I was going to, to New York every  
17 year, and four of us would get together and we'd pick right up where we left  
18 off.  
19  
20Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
21  
22Rose Stornant: I'm planning to go again this, uh, fall. I gotta contact one of the girls.  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
25  
26Rose Stornant: Anyhow, uh, it was really – I mean, it's an experience that is the most vivid  
27 part of my life.  
28  
29Elsie Hornbacher: Right.  
30  
31Rose Stornant: I would, I would have done it right over – all over again.  
32  
33Elsie Hornbacher: Yes, I think I would, too. Mm-hm. I'm so glad I traveled...  
34  
35Rose Stornant: Oh yeah.  
36  
37Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh, at the time when...  
38  
39Rose Stornant: Yeah.  
40  
41Elsie Hornbacher: ...I had the energy to see...  
42  
43Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: ...everything and do everything...  
2  
3Rose Stornant: Then I had the, had the opportunity to go to [inaudible 48:37].  
4  
5Elsie Hornbacher: ...and learn.  
6  
7Rose Stornant: I had the opportunity to go on the Riviera, too, on pass after V-E Day.  
8  
9Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
10  
11Rose Stornant: So we were down there for a week.  
12  
13Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, but then you did leave from, uh, a w-, uh, Paris to come back to the  
14 United States. [48:49] Now, what did you do when you came home, Rose?  
15  
16Rose Stornant: Well, I couldn't stand Lansing...  
17  
18Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
19  
20Rose Stornant: ...so I – one of my, uh, roommates w-, uh, in Paris lived in St. Louis,  
21 Missouri, and she came up to visit with me and I went back as far as  
22 Chicago with her, and I went to see another WAC friend that I was stationed  
23 with in Oglethorpe; it was a dear friend.  
24  
25Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
26  
27Rose Stornant: And, uh, so I stayed with her for a week, and I was gonna look for a job in  
28 Chicago.  
29  
30Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
31  
32Rose Stornant: Well, I sure [laughing] didn't – I didn't go lookin' for a job 'til the last day  
33 of the week, so I go to the [inaudible 49:21] personnel agency and the, uh,  
34 personnel gal is on vacation, so one of the attorneys – but they, they had sent  
35 me to this attorney's office, Scott [Liebenschwartz 29:29] and, uh, so this  
36 young attorney interviewed me, and he says to me, "Well, do you think you  
37 could handle the work?" I said, "Sure!" He says, "Well, come to work  
38 tomorrow." I said, "I can't! I gotta go home and get my clothes!" [laughter]  
39  
40Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
41  
42Rose Stornant: So, so they let me come home and I went back a week later a-, and I worked  
43 in Chicago for three months. But, uh, about that time, I was getting – uh,  
44 feeling kinda guilty because here I am a girl and I take off. My mother's not

1 feeling well and the three boys are home, and I'm the girl and I take off, so I  
2 decided I'd better come home.  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: [50:00] You always had a very close Italian family anyway. [inaudible  
5 50:02] relationship.  
6  
7Rose Stornant: Oh, right, yes. Oh yes.  
8  
9Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
10  
11Rose Stornant: Before we went overseas, we were all home together at one time...  
12  
13Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
14  
15Rose Stornant: ...and that was really something. I was gonna go – before going to –  
16 overseas, I was gonna go visit my brother Tony in Oklahoma instead of  
17 coming home, but I get a wire from Tony that he's on his way home. So  
18 then I go home, and I knew that Vick was on his way home 'cause he's  
19 scheduled to go overseas and Sam was stationed at Romulus, so he got  
20 home, uh, practically every weekend. So, we were all home together, and it  
21 was really a great day. My mother never forgot it, and she'd always – you  
22 see, when she was expecting Vick and Tony gets home first, she thinks it's  
23 Vick! And so they hug him all up and my father says, "That's not Vick. It's  
24 Tony!"  
25  
26Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
27  
28Rose Stornant: So they h-, got to hug him all over again. The boys looked that much alike.  
29 I mean, they're about the same size. I can't say that they really resembled  
30 each other that much, but in those days, in their young days, you know, they  
31 looked quite similar and it was really funny. And, uh, so the next day Vick  
32 arrives, and he comes in and says to my m-, he whistles to my mother, he  
33 says, "Hi!" She thinks it's Tony walking in. [laughter]  
34  
35Elsie Hornbacher: [51:02] Why did you dislike Lansing? Was it because there wasn't enough  
36 action here or you couldn't find anyone to communicate with, uh, who knew  
37 the things you knew?  
38  
39Rose Stornant: Well, I don't know what it was, but I just couldn't stand it. Uh.  
40  
41Elsie Hornbacher: You were restless.  
42

1Rose Stornant: Yes. And, uh, so I just – uh, when I got to Chicago, I looked for another job  
2 and I was only there three months. I was walkin' that State Street traffic  
3 every day, uh, just eating, sleeping, and working.  
4

5Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
6

7Rose Stornant: And that was it. So, I decided to come back home.  
8

9Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. I think when I came back I found that, uh, uh, no one understood,  
10 uh, th-, the things I said.  
11

12Rose Stornant: Oh.  
13

14Elsie Hornbacher: Or they thought I was putting on airs or...  
15

16Rose Stornant: Oh, really?  
17

18Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh, something of the sort so consequently, I was sitting back and listening  
19 and picking the repertoire that they had.  
20

21Rose Stornant: Well, I was nursing a broken heart at the time, too.  
22

23Elsie Hornbacher: I see.  
24

25Rose Stornant: It took me a long time to get over that.  
26

27Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
28

29Rose Stornant: It took me about 6 months to get over that. But, um, tsk, uh, [laughter] it  
30 was really funny. You know, Michigan is one of the few states that, uh,  
31 gave us six months to come back to our old jobs...  
32

33Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, yes.  
34

35Rose Stornant: ...and most states only gave you three months...  
36

37Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
38

39Rose Stornant: ...so it was five months, so I wrote our, our personnel man that I wanted to  
40 come back to work so I just came back to my old job.  
41

42Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [52:06] You were happy then.  
43

44Rose Stornant: Oh yeah.

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
3  
4Rose Stornant: I mean, I had gotten over Monty, so...  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
7  
8Rose Stornant: ...that was it. If I...  
9  
10Elsie Hornbacher: [52:12] May I ask you how old you were when you went overseas, roughly?  
11  
12Rose Stornant: Well I was only – I was 27 when I went into service.  
13  
14Elsie Hornbacher: I see. I see.  
15  
16Rose Stornant: And I was 30 when I came out.  
17  
18Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
19  
20Rose Stornant: So, I was 28 when I went over.  
21  
22Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Wonderful years of one's life.  
23  
24Rose Stornant: Oh yeah.  
25  
26Elsie Hornbacher: I was about the same age when I went to Tokyo.  
27  
28Rose Stornant: Really?  
29  
30Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
31  
32Rose Stornant: Really, I think when you're older, it's better.  
33  
34Elsie Hornbacher: I think so too.  
35  
36Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
37  
38Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, I mean we were mature enough to gather information to really blend it  
39 into our personalities...  
40  
41Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
42  
43Elsie Hornbacher: ...and into our, you know, intellectual background...  
44



1Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
2

3Elsie Hornbacher: ...and so forth and, uh, uh, stable enough to see that we kept out of  
4 [laughter]...  
5

6Rose Stornant: That's it. I mean...  
7

8Elsie Hornbacher: ...difficulties.  
9

10Rose Stornant: ...I mean, uh, that was what they always warned us about. It was really  
11 funny, you know, the girls – the French gals would always...  
12

13Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
14

15Rose Stornant: ...approach the guys th-, you know, about, uh, sleeping with'm.  
16

17Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
18

19Rose Stornant: Voulez, uh, uh, oh, how, how was it they say it? Oh. Voulez-vous coucher  
20 avec moi. That was it.  
21

22Elsie Hornbacher: It is. [laughter]  
23

24Rose Stornant: You want to sleep with me?  
25

26Elsie Hornbacher: [laughter]  
27

28Rose Stornant: [laughter] And, uh, [laughter] and of course we didn't. Uh, well one time  
29 we were out in the country. Uh, I, I guess we'd gone to this hospital to see  
30 the boys. We were walking back in the dark, and then this French fella is  
31 following us and, and, uh, shouting at us, you know, and we, we hopped a  
32 ride on a half-track, you know, one of these great big things like a tank-,  
33 tank?  
34

35Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
36

37Rose Stornant: These boys came along and gave us a ride. It was really funny. We get into  
38 Paris and they let us off on a corner. You should'a seen the French all rush  
39 around to that [laughter]...  
40

41Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
42

43Rose Stornant: ...that half-track. But it was really something.  
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: I felt that there was a, um, feeling of security overseas. Uh, for example, I  
2 never had anything, uh, stolen.  
3  
4Rose Stornant: Neither did I.  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, I felt as long as I conducted myself properly, I was treated in the  
7 same...  
8  
9Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
10  
11Elsie Hornbacher: ...way.  
12  
13Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: Tsk, uh...  
16  
17Rose Stornant: Course you weren't, uh, uh...  
18  
19Elsie Hornbacher: I wasn't over there during the war.  
20  
21Rose Stornant: ...you weren't confined at all.  
22  
23Elsie Hornbacher: That's right. I, uh, w-, we were not confined in any way, shape, or form.  
24 Uh-uh. But I mean...  
25  
26Rose Stornant: You went over after the war?  
27  
28Elsie Hornbacher: Yes.  
29  
30Rose Stornant: What, what year did you go over?  
31  
32Elsie Hornbacher: I went over in '49.  
33  
34Rose Stornant: Oh! That's a long time after.  
35  
36Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Right. Four years. Mm-hm. But there was still quite a bit of  
37 [rumble 54:15] in Japan.  
38  
39Rose Stornant: I can imagine.  
40  
41Elsie Hornbacher: We used a Lyster bag then.  
42  
43Rose Stornant: Oh my.  
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: And, uh, we lived in a hotel. Our living was, uh, quite different probably  
2 than it was during wartime. We had no fears, and the Japanese...  
3  
4Rose Stornant: Oh yeah.  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: ...were extremely subservient to us.  
7  
8Rose Stornant: Well, they would've been after the war after their defeat.  
9  
10Elsie Hornbacher: But it was – uh, uh, the interesting part is meeting so many people from all  
11 over the world and listening to all different viewpoints...  
12  
13Rose Stornant: Mm-hm.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh, seeing all different, uh, places in the world, uh, recognizing how other  
16 people live. It was a great experience.  
17  
18Rose Stornant: Yeah, I remember one time in the elevator in, in Paris – I don't remember  
19 where – just where I was, but, uh, these Frenchmen were saying among  
20 themselves – w-, were wondering what I was, what army I belonged to. So,  
21 I said to them, "Je suis américaine," and they were very pleased that I spoke  
22 to them in their own language. [laughter]  
23  
24Elsie Hornbacher: [55:08] Did you learn much French?  
25  
26Rose Stornant: Well, I was really getting into it. Madame [inaudible 55:11] lived next door  
27 to us in the hotel, and, uh, she was an American citizen. She had gone over  
28 to, to France during WWI. She was 18 and she married a Frenchman over  
29 there and stayed there.  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
32  
33Rose Stornant: So, she came over and offered her services to the Americans. So, she had a  
34 French class, and she thought that I would be one that would really, you  
35 know, go out, uh, learning it, but, uh, I was giving it the Italian twist for a  
36 long time, you know.  
37  
38Elsie Hornbacher: [55:37] Did you speak Italian at one time, Rose?  
39  
40Rose Stornant: Oh yeah. I can speak it, uh, elementary.  
41  
42Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.  
43  
44Rose Stornant: Sicily Island.

1  
2Elsie Hornbacher: You probably aren't a [inaudible 55:43] Italiano.  
3  
4Rose Stornant: [inaudible 55:45] Rosie.  
5  
6Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Yeah.  
7  
8Rose Stornant: But d-, when I went over the Italy, you know, this, uh, Italian boy says,  
9 "You don't speak Italian. You speak Sicilian." [laughter]  
10  
11Elsie Hornbacher: [55:53] You speak what?  
12  
13Rose Stornant: Sicilian.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.  
16  
17Rose Stornant: Sicilian.  
18  
19Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, Sicilian.  
20  
21Rose Stornant: It's a difference. You know, there's a difference in every province.  
22  
23Elsie Hornbacher: Oh yes, I understand.  
24  
25Rose Stornant: In Rome – I couldn't understand a word in Rome.  
26  
27Elsie Hornbacher: Hm.  
28  
29Rose Stornant: Every province has its own dialect.  
30  
31Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.  
32  
33Rose Stornant: Just like the South here.  
34  
35Elsie Hornbacher: [56:07] From Italian to French, uh, would be quite easy. Mm-hm.  
36  
37Rose Stornant: Yeah. Yeah, but I was givin' it the Italian twist a lot. [laughter]  
38  
39Elsie Hornbacher: [56:13] Alright, you're back home. Is there any, uh, uh...  
40  
41Rose Stornant: Well, um.  
42  
43Elsie Hornbacher: ...any else you'd like to tell us?  
44

1Rose Stornant: Back home? Not really. I, I did go back to – I visited with my niece down  
2 in, uh, southern Illinois, and Major [Avery 56:27] who I worked with in  
3 Paris...  
4

5Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
6

7Rose Stornant: ...is, uh, near there, so I wrote him and told him I was going down there and  
8 I'd like to visit with him if it was alright with them. Oh, he was thrilled to  
9 death. He said his wife wanted to – was anxious to meet me and stuff...  
10

11Elsie Hornbacher: Good.  
12

13Rose Stornant: ...and that they would meet me at the airport and all this. So, when I got  
14 down to – Nina is my niece, uh, the, uh, flight arrangement had been  
15 changed. Now it was getting into St. Louis as a later time, so I called the  
16 Major to tell him and, uh, he calls back in a little while and he says, "Well,  
17 instead of you going, uh, uh, all the way to..." – um, I forget that – you  
18 have to ride an hour to get – catch a plane down there. [inaudible 57:05]  
19

20Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
21

22Rose Stornant: I forgot, uh, now where it is in Illinois. Anyway, in Lincoln's home town.  
23 What is it?  
24

25Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, Springfield, Illinois.  
26

27Rose Stornant: Springfield, yeah! Springfield. "Instead of going all the way to Springfield  
28 and then going – uh, coming all the way out here from, uh, St. Louis," he  
29 says, "why don't you meet us halfway at (such a place)?" He s-, and, and I  
30 said, "Just a minute, Major, I'll let you talk to somebody who knows what  
31 you're talkin' about." So, I put my niece on. She's, 'Oh yes! I know where  
32 that is!' [laughter]  
33

34Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
35

36Rose Stornant: And she said she never – I never told her that he was in Troy, Missouri,  
37 'cause it was quite close.  
38

39Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
40

41Rose Stornant: So, they drove me down there and, and, and the Major and his wife picked  
42 me up down there. [laughter] It was fun.  
43

44Elsie Hornbacher: How wonderful. You still have contacts, then...

1  
2Rose Stornant: Oh yes.  
3  
4Elsie Hornbacher: ...[inaudible 57:43] personnel.  
5  
6Rose Stornant: I, I – we still correspond. I mean at, at Christmastime.  
7  
8Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.  
9  
10Rose Stornant: And when I went overseas in '61, I wrote the Major and he was thrilled to  
11 death. He wrote me a nice long letter 'cause he and his wife were planning  
12 to go over and he wanted to know different things. Did I see this, did I see  
13 that and stuff.  
14  
15Elsie Hornbacher: Hm.  
16  
17Rose Stornant: But, uh. No, I still hear from him at Christmas.  
18  
19Elsie Hornbacher: Oh wonderful.  
20  
21Rose Stornant: Hm.  
22  
23Elsie Hornbacher: [58:02] Well, is that all then, Rose?  
24  
25Rose Stornant: I think so. I think that's enough, don't you?  
26  
27Elsie Hornbacher: Alright. That's fine.  
28  
29Rose Stornant: [laughter]  
30  
31  
32/ad