

**Interview of Lucile Pauline Matignon Crane
on her service as a surgical nurse in the U.S. Navy during WWI**

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2
3
4
5Interviewer 1: [0:02] ...questions of a former Navy nurse. Would you please give your full
6 maiden name?
7
8Ms. Crane: Lucile Pauline (M-A-T-I-G-N-O-N), Matignon.
9
10Interviewer 1: [0:17] And, how old are you now?
11
12Ms. Crane: Be 93 in February.
13
14Interviewer 1: [0:24] What branch of service did you serve in?
15
16Ms. Crane: The Navy.
17
18Interviewer 1: [0:28] For how long, about?
19
20Ms. Crane: Uh, from – you mean actual service or from the time we enli-, uh, were
21 registered?
22
23Interviewer 1: [0:39] Registered.
24
25Ms. Crane: Registered. From April in '17 till February '19.
26
27Interviewer 1: [0:50] And, how long were you overseas in that time?
28
29Ms. Crane: From January '18 to December '18.
30
31Interviewer 1: [1:00] What influenced you to go into the Navy?
32
33Ms. Crane: Because my hospital had a unit.
34
35Interviewer 1: [1:06] And what was your hospital?
36
37Ms. Crane: Stanford University.
38
39Interviewer 1: [1:10] In Palo Alto...
40
41Ms. Crane: ...San Francisco, in those days.
42
43Interviewer 1: [1:14] Oh, it was ol-, the old Stanford Hospital?
44

1Ms. Crane: Yes.
2
3Interviewer 1: [1:18] San Francisco...
4
5Ms. Crane: This was in 1914!
6
7Interviewer: [1:21] Did you get right out of, uh, nursing school and go into the Navy, or did
8 you do [inaudible 1:25] ...
9
10Ms. Crane: No. I worked – I graduated in '14; I didn't go into the Navy till '17. (Do I have to
11 turn this on?)
12
13Interviewer: [Inaudible 1:36].
14
15Interviewer 2: Ready.
16
17Interviewer 1: [1:37] What kind, what kind of nursing did you do...
18
19Ms. Crane: Surgical.
20
21Interviewer 1: [1:41] ...at, at Stanford University in San Francisco, California?
22
23Ms. Crane: Yes.
24
25Interviewer 1: [1:48] ...that's where you were, wasn't it? Then – what kind of work did you do
26 when you went into the service?
27
28Ms. Crane: Surgical nurse.
29
30Interviewer 1: [1:56] Surgical nurse there, too. Did you ex-, expect any experiences, uh, to pre-,
31 that you had as a civilian to prepare you for a career in the service?
32
33Ms. Crane: No.
34
35Interviewer 1: [2:08] Did you have a problem, uh, um, adjusting to the service when you went
36 in?
37
38Ms. Crane: No.
39
40Interviewer 1: [02:18] Would you expand on, uh, why you could adjust to the service so well?
41
42Ms. Crane: Living in hospitals for all those years and had – going overseas with friends;
43 nurses I knew.
44

1Interviewer 1: [02:34] And you didn't, uh, have to have – you didn't have any trouble with the
2Navy...
3
4Ms. Crane: No.
5
6Interviewer 1: [2:39] ...adjusting whatsoever.
7
8Ms. Crane: No.
9
10Interviewer 1: [2:41] Do you remember what your pay was?
11
12Ms. Crane: \$60 a month overseas.
13
14Interviewer 1: [2:48] And, \$50 a month was your base pay?
15
16Ms. Crane: Well, we got \$60 a month.
17
18Interviewer 1: [2:54] Yes, but didn't you get \$10 a month for, uh, overseas pay? Did I hear you
19say that?
20
21Ms. Crane: The entire thing was \$60. So I don't know anything any other way.
22
23Interviewer 1: [3:04] Oh, you didn't – oh, I beg your pardon. I thought you said you got some
24overseas pay.
25
26Ms. Crane: No, no, no – we got \$60; that was the whole...
27
28Interviewer 1: [3:13] Kit and caboodle.
29
30Ms. Crane: Exactly.
31
32Interviewer 1: [3:18] But, they're asking a question here and I don't think it applies too much,
33though, to World War I people because I think the answer would be the Navy, but
34I'll ask you this question – Were you given equal opportunities for service and
35education?
36
37Ms. Crane: No.
38
39Interviewer 1: [3:35] What happened? Did you have to get...
40
41Ms. Crane: Didn't have it.
42
43Interviewer 1: [3:38] They just didn't have it?
44

1Ms. Crane: They didn't have it in those days.
2
3Interviewer 1: [3:40] And if you wanted any education, you got it outside the service, right?
4What assignments, uh, were given to the nurses as a whole? Were you a surgical
5nurse...
6
7Ms. Crane: I was a surgical nurse. I was in the surgical unit. They had a medical unit and a
8surgical unit, and I was a surgical unit.
9
10Interviewer 1: [4:02] And, were you in the operating room? Or...
11
12Ms. Crane: Yea, operating room. Entirely.
13
14Interviewer 1: [4:07] You were [inaudible 4:05] ...entirely. What kind of housing did you have
15when you were in overseas, when you were overseas?
16
17Ms. Crane: We lived in the top floor of the hospital, which had been a resort hotel. Of just
18nurses.
19
20Interviewer 1: [4:24] These were all doctors and nurses with...
21
22Ms. Crane: ...with, practically. Practically. There were a few outsiders.
23
24Interviewer 1: [4:30] It was a Stanford Unit, though?
25
26Ms. Crane: Yes, it was a Stanford Unit.
27
28Interviewer 1: [4:33] So, you all left San Francisco by train?
29
30Ms. Crane: Yes.
31
32Interviewer 1: [4:37] Mm-hm. That must have been very exciting. [inaudible 4:43]
33
34Ms. Crane: [inaudible 4:42]
35
36Interviewer 1: All right, that would be interesting to hear about that. What happened on the train
37all the way to [inaudible 4:47]
38
39Ms. Crane: [laughter] Oh... [laughter]
40
41Interviewer 1: [4:49] Tell us about it.
42
43Ms. Crane: [laughter]
44

1Interviewer 1: [4:50] It must have taken you days.
2
3Ms. Crane: It took us 7 or 8 days.
4
5Interviewer 1: [4:57] It did?
6
7Ms. Crane: In those days, we went, we went by the – what was that railroad that went up the
8 Feather River? And went that way...
9
10Interviewer 1: [5:05] Uh, Union Pacific?
11
12Ms. Crane: Yes, and went around and we were at least 7 days getting...
13
14Interviewer 1: [5:12] What did you do, go to Chicago and...
15
16Ms. Crane: Oh yes, we went to Chicago then on to Philadelphia and we stayed at the
17 Rittenhouse in Philadelphia.
18
19Interviewer 1: [5:20] Oh! The old Rittenhouse Hotel, which is still there.
20
21Ms. Crane: Is it?
22
23Interviewer 1: [5:24] Mm-hm.
24
25Ms. Crane: We stayed at – the Navy took good care of its nurses, you know?
26
27Interviewer 2: [5:28] Oh yes.
28
29Ms. Crane: We didn't have any, like the Army nurses.
30
31Interviewer 2: [5:30] [laughter] I know. Did you by any chance go to the naval ship yard at the
32 Navy base in Philadelphia? Is that where you got outfitted?
33
34Ms. Crane: No, we were sent to New York.
35
36Interviewer 2: [5:41] Oh, you were? Hm.
37
38Interviewer 1: [5:43] Did you have to buy your own uniforms?
39
40Ms. Crane: No.
41
42Interviewer 2: [5:46] They did that, huh?
43

1Ms. Crane: No, but they were terrible. They just threw 'em at us. If they fit you, all right, and
2 if they didn't, all right.
3
4Interviewer 2: [5:55] Huh. Gee.
5
6Interviewer 1: [5:55] Well, sounds just about what they did to us, too.
7
8Interviewer 2: [5:57] Mm-hm. Shoes didn't fit. [pants 6:00] were too big... [laughter]
9
10Ms. Crane: The Red Cross supplied us some of our clothes. The underwear, the heavy
11 underwear, which we did not wear. [laughter]
12
13Interviewer 2: [6:10] Still have it? [laughter]
14
15Interviewer 1: [6:14] What, uh, was your uniform dress for the street? For the Navy?
16
17Ms. Crane: The dress uniform was dark blue.
18
19Interviewer 1: [6:23] Navy blue?
20
21Ms. Crane: Navy blue with a fedora hat.
22
23Interviewer 1: [6:29] And the, the Navy uniform went to your ankles?
24
25Ms. Crane: Yes. With high-top shoes.
26
27Interviewer 1: [6:34] Did you have black high-top shoes? Laced or buttoned?
28
29Ms. Crane: [Neither one 6:39].
30
31Interviewer 1: [6:40] Really?
32
33Ms. Crane: [inaudible 6:41] laced. They didn't pay much attention to uniforms in those days. I
34 mean, we cocked our hats any old way and...
35
36Interviewer 1: [6:51] Hm. Never that gold braid?
37
38Ms. Crane: Yes, we did and then on the sleeve we had the nurse thing.
39
40Interviewer 1: [6:59] Oh yes...
41
42Ms. Crane: We didn't have any stripes, but we had service stripes – as many as 6 months and
43 we got a stripe.
44

1Interviewer 1: [7:07] Oh. Mm-hm.
2
3Interviewer 2: [7:10] Mm-hm. And, wh-, what kind of uniform did you wear in the hospital?
4
5Ms. Crane: Gray chambray.
6
7Interviewer 2: [7:16] Did you wear a hat? Cap? A nurse's cap?
8
9Ms. Crane: Yes.
10
11Interviewer 2: [7:20] What was your most memor-, memorable experience do you think that you
12 had while you were in the Navy?
13
14Interviewer 1: [7:27] Oh, that's a good one. [laughter]
15
16Ms. Crane: [laughter] Yeah, I'd hate to tell ya... [laughter]
17
18Interviewer 1: [laughter] [inaudible 7:30]
19
20Ms. Crane You want the funniest one?
21
22Interviewer 1: [7:36] Yes.
23
24Ms. Crane Making ice cream!
25
26Interviewer 1: [7:39] Well, that's all right with me.
27
28Interviewer 2: [7:41] I made ice cream, too – [the Belgian bulge 7:42].
29
30Ms. Crane: We found some Eagle brand milk and we'd go swipe some eggs and some sugar
31 and then, I guess, some dried milk, I don't know. And, but the i-, the thing was we
32 had to send to the undertaker in Glasgow to get the ice. We found an ice cream
33 freezer. [laughter]
34
35Interviewer 1: [8:03] Ooh, that's ingenuity. [laughter]
36
37Ms. Crane: [laughter]
38
39Interviewer 1: [8:06] Well, you wouldn't eat the ice so... [inaudible 8:08]
40
41Ms. Crane: But I'm gonna tell ya – I won't tell you about the other exploits.
42
43Interviewer 2: [8:12] Yeah, 'cause I could put 'em on tape if you'd dare say...
44

1Ms. Crane: No, we associated with the enlisted men.
2
3Interviewer 1: [8:21] Mm-hm.
4
5Ms. Crane: The doctors were too old.
6
7Interviewer 2: [8:26] And that was a no-no?
8
9Ms. Crane: Well, in those days, doctors and nurses did not affiliate very much. There was a
10 long distance between doctors and nurses.
11
12Interviewer 2: [8:38] Well, but, you remember nursing school, if you had contact with the older
13 doctors, believe me, you were way down there on the floor...
14
15Ms. Crane: ...down in the mess. They went ahead of you...
16
17Interviewer 2: [8:49] Uh-huh.
18
19Ms. Crane: You'd open the door for 'em...
20
21Interviewer 1: [8:51] They went ahead of you on the elevator...
22
23Ms. Crane: You didn't associate.
24
25Interviewer 1: [8:54] Mm-hm.
26
27Ms. Crane: Some of the doctors we did back then, but mostly we'd [inaudible 9:00] with the
28 enlisted men. Maybe a few of the junior officers but not much. We had a better
29 time.
30
31Interviewer 1: [9:09] [laughter] Right.
32
33Interviewer 2: [9:11] What kind of patients did you have in your hospital?
34
35Ms. Crane: All kinds. We had – they would send convoys in, but they had already received
36 first aid. And, of course, surgical, it was surgical. It was mending what we could.
37 Those that were too severe were shipped home. Then, we had mine sweepers and
38 we had civilians. Anybody that was sick, we took care of.
39
40Interviewer 2: [9:41] Mm-hm.
41
42Ms. Crane: And, of course, being in the operating room, I only saw the surgical side.
43
44Interviewer 2: [9:48] Right.

1
2Interviewer 1: [9:51] Did you have much contact with the Scots people that were up there...
3 [inaudible 9:55]
4
5Ms. Crane: Oh yes. Yes. Made great friends with 'em. After we'd been there a short time, they
6 got used to us.
7
8Interviewer 2: [10:02] And, what was the name of your hospital in Scotland?
9
10Ms. Crane: Well, Navy base #2!
11
12Interviewer 2: [10:09] And, were you on the [inaudible 10:10] or where were you...
13
14Ms. Crane: No, we were in Strathpeffer.
15
16Interviewer 2: [10:14] And, where was that?
17
18Ms. Crane: That was 18 miles north of Inverness. It was an – it had been a resort. They were
19 supposed to have mineral springs there and we found out what those mineral
20 springs were. They piped in the sulfur. [laughter]
21
22Interviewer 2: [10:33] [laughter] You mean, they cheated back in those days, too, huh?
23
24Ms. Crane: [laughter] Yes. And the mud baths and that kinda...
25
26Interviewer 2: [10:41] Oh...
27
28Ms. Crane: There were two, two huge hotels there. And, the medical had one hotel and we
29 had the other.
30
31Interviewer 2: [10:52] What did you do after the service?
32
33Ms. Crane: I got a position in Modesto.
34
35Interviewer 2: [10:59] California.
36
37Ms. Crane: California, as an operating room nurse in the hospital.
38
39Interviewer 1: [11:04] Oh, tell 'em about being broke when you got out... [inaudible 11:06]
40
41Ms. Crane: Oh, I was broke – I took the first job that was offered me! [laughter]
42
43Interviewer 1: [11:09] [laughter]
44

1Ms. Crane: [laughter]
2
3Interviewer 1: [11:11] ...you weren't [laughter] really particular...
4
5Ms. Crane: Nurses were short then. It wasn't hard to get a job.
6
7Interviewer 1: [11:17] Aha!
8
9Ms. Crane: They were grabbing the nurses.
10
11Interviewer 1: [11:20] But, Modesto back then was a little town, wasn't it?
12
13Ms. Crane: Yes. That's where I met my husband.
14
15Interviewer 1: [11:26] Oh, how interesting.
16
17Interviewer 2: [11:28] Was he one of the rich farmers down there?
18
19Ms. Crane: No, he had a cannery.
20
21Interviewer 1: [11:32] Oh, well all right – he'd can the farmer's food.
22
23Interviewer 2: [11:35] Yes.
24
25Interviewer 1: [11:37] I'd be interested in the comment that you made in the paper about getting
26 your group recognized. Do you think you got much recognition for being in the
27 service when you came back?
28
29Ms. Crane: None whatsoever.
30
31Interviewer 1: [11:50] None. Really?
32
33Ms. Crane: We just came in the – finally, California gave us a bonus. But they – the Navy,
34 never gave us anything. The United States never gave us anything. I think maybe
35 I could go to the Veteran's Hospital – I don't know. On an emergency, if I didn't
36 have any money – if I was a pauper. If I couldn't pay my hospital bill.
37
38Interviewer 2: [12:15] Do you have any contact with the Nurse Corps now? Maybe just for the...
39
40Ms. Crane: No.
41
42Interviewer 2: [12:20] No?
43
44Ms. Crane: No. As far as I know, around the bay, I'm the only one. I think they've all gone.

1
2Interviewer 1: [12:29] I know I also remember, uh, from the original 20, 4 or 5 of them being in
3 [inaudible] 12:35] and then coming to [inaudible] 12:37] ...
4
5Ms. Crane: No, [inaudible].
6
7Interviewer 1: [Inaudible] sort of thing?
8
9Ms. Crane: No I didn't. The...
10
11Interviewer 1: [Inaudible].
12
13Interviewer 1: They're all gone. As far as I know, they're all gone.
14
15Interviewer 1: [12:46] Mm-hm.
16
17Ms. Crane: [Except for 12:48]
18
19Interviewer 1: [12:48] [inaudible] 12:48]
20
21Ms. Crane: No, they're separated; we married, and lost contact with each other. But, as far as I
22 know, in Stanford, there are only 2 of us left of, of my vintage.
23
24Interviewer 2: [13:03] Where is the other Navy nurse?
25
26Ms. Crane: She wasn't a Navy nurse. [inaudible] 13:07]. Neither of 'em went overseas.
27
28Interviewer 1: [13:11] Uh, I, uh, the other thing, which I think would be interesting is that you're
29 from the first class of, uh, graduates from Stanford?
30
31Ms. Crane: Oh n-, well yes, as Stanford took over [inaudible] 13:22] Lane Hospital.
32
33Interviewer 1: [13:24] Oh.
34
35Ms. Crane: It was the old Lane Hospital and Cooper Medical School and, the year I went in,
36 Stanford took it over.
37
38Interviewer 2: Oh, so you actually graduated...
39
40Ms. Crane: I was the first...
41
42Interviewer 2: [13:33] ...Stanford's first class...
43
44Ms. Crane: First class. I have a diploma from Stanford.

1
2Interviewer 2: [13:37] Uh-huh. Mm-hm. And it was a 3-year program?
3
4Ms. Crane: Yep.
5
6Interviewer 1: [13:43] Did you, uh, take a postgraduate course to specialize in surgical nursing?
7
8Ms. Crane: No. I was trained to be a surgical nurse.
9
10Interviewer 1: [13:51] Mm-hm.
11
12Interviewer 2: [13:52] Mm-hm.
13
14Ms. Crane: A nurse was – one nurse every so often was picked out. I spent 2 years straight in
15 the operating room, then they had to give me a little dab of this and the other
16 before I could grad-, you see, I could graduate.
17
18Interviewer 1: [14:07] Mm-hm.
19
20Interviewer 2: [14:08] Right. That happened to a lot of people... [inaudible 14:13]
21
22Ms. Crane: It was the most exciting – the nicest part of the whole – I'm glad I did it; I was
23 able to.
24
25Interviewer 2: [14:17] Mm-hm. Very exciting.
26
27Ms. Crane: I was quite proud of being chosen.
28
29Interviewer 2: [14:20] Mm-hm.
30
31Interviewer 1: [14:22] ...seeing you here, all so bubbly and vivacious. I rather suppose you were
32 bubbly and vivacious and did a lot of hard work in those days.
33
34Ms. Crane: Well, I loved it. I was – there was one doctor I was 'specially his nurse...
35
36Interviewer 2: [14:35] Mm-hm.
37
38Ms. Crane: ...and he wouldn't have anybody else. And then he went overseas, and I was his
39 nurse overseas.
40
41Interviewer 2: [14:42] Mm-hm.
42
43Ms. Crane: And he was the – he was the head surgeon overseas.
44

1Interviewer 1: [14:48] In the naval hospital [inaudible 14:50].
2
3Ms. Crane: Dr. [Stuhlman 14:50] – but, of course, you don't remember him though [inaudible
4 14:52] years back. In '14/'15.
5
6Interviewer 1: [14:55] While we're on the subject of rank, you said you didn't have any rank, as
7 such. Probably sort of relative – you were paid probably an officer's pay. Did the
8 doctors have rank? Do you remember?
9
10Ms. Crane: We only called them doctor. We didn't call them capt-, there was a, uh, captain
11 and an executive officer. After that, they were all doctors.
12
13Interviewer 2: [15:17] Mm-hm. It's hard to tell what they had for the common unit in those days.
14
15Ms. Crane: No, you don't know.
16
17Interviewer 1: [15:23] And, in a way, Stanford would be a reserve unit, wouldn't it?
18
19Interviewer 2: 15:27] Right.
20
21Interviewer 1: [15:28] [inaudible 15:28] the enemy, they'd put a Navy doctor over [laughter] you
22 know, the hos-, the head of the hospital.
23
24Interviewer 2: [15:34] ...what they did in those days.
25
26Interviewer 1: [15:36] Do you remember who was in charge of the Navy Nurse Corps at the
27 time?
28
29Ms. Crane: Hogg. Her name was Hogg.
30
31Interviewer 1: [15:42] Hogg, that's right. How do you spell that?
32
33Ms. Crane: H-O-double G.
34
35Interviewer 2: [15:46] Mm-hm.
36
37Ms. Crane: Elizabeth, I think...Elizabeth.
38
39Interviewer 1: [15:49] Yeah, Elizabeth Hogg – I believe that's it. I believe I've heard about her.
40
41Ms. Crane: We didn't like her.
42
43Interviewer 1: [15:53] You didn't? [laughter] Wasn't she – Elizabeth Hogg, wasn't she the one
44 that started the group, started the Nurse Corps?

1
2Ms. Crane: Well, she was head of it, yes, because she was the Superintendent of Nurses at
3 Stanford.
4
5Interviewer 1: [16:06] She was?
6
7Ms. Crane: And, and then the Navy took over Stanford and the Army took over U.C.
8
9Interviewer 1: [16:12] U.C....
10
11Interviewer 2: [16:14] But Elizabeth Hogg was your chief nurse?
12
13Ms. Crane: Yes.
14
15Interviewer 2: [16:17] But, do you remember who was chief nurse of the whole Nurse Corps?
16 [inaudible 16:20]
17
18Ms. Crane: No, never met any other.
19
20Interviewer 1: [16:22] [inaudible 16:22] Washington, D.C.
21
22Interviewer 2: [16:23] Yeah, from Washington. You just never met any other [inaudible 16:26]?
23
24Ms. Crane: No, I never met any other.
25
26Interviewer 2: [16:27] Huh. Sort of isolated in your own little group, then?
27
28Ms. Crane: Yes.
29
30Interviewer 2: [16:31] Mm-hm.
31
32Interviewer 1: [16:32] Well, I rather suppose in those days those, those chiefs out of
33 Washington, D.C., didn't make the trip to the boat.
34
35Ms. Crane: No. I did later meet a nurse who was head – charge of the hospital in, Bor-, uh,
36 not Bordeaux, Brest. And that's where I left from to come home. But, of course, I
37 was lucky, as my brother-in-law was a doctor in the Navy – my sister's husband.
38 He met me in Brest and I got a lot of privileges through him 'cause he knew how
39 to work them. And I got 10 days, I got 10 days in Paris to visit my relatives.
40
41Interviewer 1: [17:09] And, who were your relatives?
42
43Ms. Crane: [inaudible 17:11] My father's brother and uncle and his 2 nephews. And, I had an
44 aunt there, too.

1
2Interviewer 2: [17:20] Did you, in the old days, speak French?
3
4Ms. Crane: Well, yes. Yes and no.
5
6Interviewer 2: [17:24] Uh-huh... [inaudible 17:25]
7
8Ms. Crane: Remember when you went to school. When the kids called you Frenchie, that was
9 an insult.
10
11Interviewer 2: [17:30] Oh, yeah. [laughter]
12
13Ms. Crane: It was all right to be called China or anything else [laughter]
14
15Interviewer 2: [17:34] [laughter] ...but not that, huh?
16
17Ms. Crane: My mother taught French for many years. She was the first woman to teach in the
18 University of California.
19
20Interviewer 2: [17:43] Oh, [inaudible 17:44]
21
22Interviewer 1: [17:48] Your mother taught French in the University of California?
23
24Ms. Crane: Mm-hm. A year, or 2, maybe 2 – I forgot.
25
26Interviewer 2: [17:56] Oh, that's interesting.
27
28Ms. Crane: You know, about that time I went in training and I was trying to write up my
29 family history and there's a long stretch in there [inaudible 18:07]. I was living in
30 San Francisco. I s-, only saw them occasionally. We worked in those days, you
31 know? We worked 12 hours, with a half a day off a week if you were lucky.
32
33Interviewer 1: [18:20] Is that the same hours you worked in the Navy?
34
35Ms. Crane: We just worked while there was work.
36
37Interviewer 1: [18:26] Oh.
38
39Ms. Crane: There were no hours. [inaudible 18:30].
40
41Interviewer 1: [inaudible]
42
43Ms. Crane: There were days we played...
44

1Interviewer 1: Uh-huh.

2

3Ms. Crane: ...and, and the days we worked.

4

5Interviewer 2: [18:35] That sounds like the hospitals we had in the Second World War. You

6 were either busy or you weren't.

7

8Ms. Crane: Yes. When the convoys came in, you worked.

9

10Interviewer 2: [18:44] Mm-hm. But otherwise...

11

12Ms. Crane: And then as they – and, of course, wounded men are not sick men. We didn't have

13 – it wasn't like the medical people who had – and then, of course, we didn't see

14 the fellas after they left the operating room. We only saw them when they came to

15 us.

16

17Interviewer 2: [19:00] Mm-hm. Mm-hm

18

19Ms. Crane: And, of course, when the operating room got light, sometimes we wouldn't have

20 much, and then, again, we'd work for – before that – I didn't tell you this – Er,

21 from July till April, I was in Victoria in a military hospital. I finally got – I had

22 been at Stanford so long and I had this job offered me. And, I began to get itchy

23 feet. I'd been long enough in one place and thought it was time to branch out. And

24 I was up there in the operating room.

25

26Interviewer 2: [Inaudible 19:40].

27

28Ms. Crane: I almost went into the Canadian.

29

30Interviewer 2: Oh. Hm.

31

32Ms. Crane: I just – the time came in the nick of time to bring me home...

33

34Interviewer 2: Huh.

35

36Ms. Crane: ...and I came right home.

37

38Interviewer 2: [19:48] Hm. [Inaudible 19:50].

39

40Interviewer 1: [19:52] Why? Because...excuse me. Because, uh, because Stanford was

41 mobilizing to go overseas?

42

43Ms. Crane: Yes. When I heard that, I came right home. Otherwise, I would have gone with

44 the Canadians.

1
2Interviewer 2: [20:01] Hm. [laughter]
3
4Interviewer 1: [20:04] Tell us a little bit about your sister that was in the signal unit.
5
6Ms. Crane: Her husband was in the Navy but because of her French language, she had taught
7 French. She went overseas in the signal car and she went right up to the front and
8 she was given an honor there because they were right under fire. Then, after the
9 war was over, she was back in Paris and I met her, after the war was over, in
10 Paris. In Christmas '18, we were – the doctor, and my sister and I – were in Paris,
11 visiting my relatives.
12
13Interviewer 2: [20:44] Hm. [inaudible 20:46]
14
15Interviewer 1: [20:47] But, but her husband, the doctor, was a civilian actually, and he, he
16 answered the call...
17
18Ms. Crane: Yes.
19
20Interviewer 1: [20:52] Uh, to go into the Navy.
21
22Ms. Crane: Overseas.
23
24Interviewer 1: [20:54] And, did he beat her overseas and she went separately?
25
26Ms. Crane: He was on another ship, and that was at Brest, as far as I know. What he did
27 before that, I don't know.
28
29Interviewer 2: [21:03] Mm-hm.
30
31Interviewer 1: [21:06] And, tell the story about you getting leave to go see him.
32
33Ms. Crane: Well, no, because I was on my way home then.
34
35Interviewer 1: [21:14] Oh. Okay. She was on her way home...
36
37Ms. Crane: But they, in December, they started to disband the, the hospital. And I was one of
38 the first to go because I wanted to get to France. And I got to France and met my
39 brother-in-law in Brest and he got me 10 days leave to go to Paris to visit; and,
40 while I was in Paris, I met my sister.
41
42Interviewer 1: [21:40] Gee, [laughter] You had a family reunion there!
43

1Ms. Crane: Then, I came home – ugh, I was popular once – I came home on the President
2Grant, it's in that thing...
3
4Interviewer 1: [21:52] Uh-huh.
5
6Ms. Crane: ...with 10 women and I don't know how many thousand men.
7
8Interviewer 1: [21:56] Oh, [laughter]
9
10Ms. Crane: [laughter]
11
12Interviewer 2: [21:58] Hey, that's the way we traveled, wasn't it? [laughter]
13
14Ms. Crane: [laughter] Yes.
15
16Interviewer 2: [22:01] Very few women and lots of men. [laughter]
17
18Ms. Crane: [laughter] Yes, we were popular... [laughter]
19
20Interviewer 2: [22:06] Oh, and how. [laughter] Yeah.
21
22Ms. Crane: And the place that – it was during the flu epidemic, a bad flu epidemic – and the
23places where we used to go and sit and look at the moon on the way – we went
24south, so we had good weather. We were 18-, 14 days coming home.
25
26Interviewer 2: [22:25] Uh-huh.
27
28Ms. Crane: With an aft deck where they-, where all the coffins were. And nobody disturbed
29us up there.
30
31Interviewer 2: [22:32] [laughter] Yeah, that would be...Did you come back to New York?
32
33Ms. Crane: Yes. And then I came straight home to San Francisco. I had to come – I didn't
34have any money!
35
36Interviewer 2: [22:43] Oh, [laughter].
37
38Interviewer 1: [22:44] Came back on train, huh?
39
40Ms. Crane: Yeah, oh yes. In those days, there was no flying.
41
42Interviewer 2: [22:49] Right.
43

1Interviewer 1: [22:51] When you told the story, though, earlier, about your sister going to join
2her husband.

3

4Ms. Crane: Yes.

5

6Interviewer 1: [22:57] And when they heard about it. How was that? Where'd they go?

7

8Ms. Crane: They went to Nice.

9

10Interviewer 1: [23:01] Was it on a leave?

11

12Ms. Crane: Yes. They both got-, had leave, managed to get leave at the same time. And, when
13they found out that they were in, husband and wife, were in Nice, my sister was
14sent right back to Paris.

15

16Interviewer 1: [23:15] Sounds like the same old thing they did in World War II.

17

18Interviewer 2: [23:18] Haven't changed a bit. [laughter]

19

20Ms. Crane: Yeah.

21

22Interviewer 1: [23:19] Haven't changed a bit; it was forbidden at the time.

23

24Ms. Crane: She was just lucky to get over there with her husband over there, but they needed
25somebody to speak French.

26

27Interviewer 2: [23:28] Mm-hm.

28

29Interviewer 1: [23:30] So, she was the one that had [all girls 23:31]?

30

31Ms. Crane: Uh-huh.

32

33Interviewer 2: [23:33] Did she work for the Signal Corps?

34

35Ms. Crane: Yes.

36

37Interviewer 2: [23:35] She worked for the Signal Corps.

38

39

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