

DOROTHY HAUGHTON

Denver, Colorado Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

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Dorothy Haughton

PREFACE

This transcript is the product of an interview conducted on 13 March, 1986, for the Women's Overseas Service League.

Signed, dated agreements of release and biographical information accompany the original cassette.

*Transcribed by Patricia Siggers
Lansing, Michigan*

1 June, 1989

WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE

Oral History Project

DOROTHY HAUGHTON

Denver, Colorado Unit

NOTE: Interviewer is Marjorie Brown
of the Denver Unit.

MB: What is your
name? DH: Dorothy
Haughton.

MB: When did you join the Denver Unit of
WOSL? DH: 1971.

MB: Were you in the Service?

DH: I joined the American Red Cross in 1943, and then
came into the Army in 1948.

MB: Why did you come into the Service?

DH: I wanted to travel, primarily.

MB: Before you came into the Army, what did you do?

DH: I was a physical therapist before I came into the
Army, and before I came into the Red Cross I was
a

secretary.

MB: What did you do in the Service?

DH: In the Red Cross I was a hospital secretary, and in
the Army I was a physical therapist.

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DOROTHY HAUGHTON, Denver Unit

28 MB: What does a physical therapist do?

DH: Primarily, exercises for various disabilities;
30 orthopedics or things like strokes, parkinsonians,
various things with kids like cerebral palsy and
32 various muscular disabilities and osteo.

MB: How long were you in the Army?

34 DH: Twenty years.

MB: Where did you travel while you were in the Service?

36 DH: While I was in the Army, I was in Fort Sam Houston.
I went from there to Japan; to the Philippines;
back

38 to Japan; to Valley Forge; to Fort Knox; to Fort
McPherson; to Madigan; to Fort Polk; to Germany;
to

40 Fi tzs immons.

MB: What kind of housing did you have when you were in
42 the Service?

DH: It was mostly nursing quarters and for a while, I
44 was able to live in private apartments.

MB: What kind of medical care was available to you?

46 DH: Anything that was needed.

MB: What kind of uniforms did you wear?

48 DH: When I first came in we were wearing seersucker
wraparound duty uniforms and pink-and-greens
for

50 *dress. Then we finally got into white uniforms*
for duty, and went to taupe, and then to the green
with

52 *the dress blues.*

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MB: When you went into the Service, what was the biggest
54 adjustment you had to make?

DH: Oh, I don't really know. I'd been in the Red Cross
56 before, and it was not a lot different; what I was
doing.

58 MB: Can you relate a couple of either funny or sad or
some experiences that were particularly notable to
60 you?

DH: In Japan it was fun to travel around the country
62 after the peace talks started in Korea. We were
sending patients home as fast as they were able, and
64 then we weren't getting any more in, so we
weren't very busy. I bought a second-hand car,
and we did a
66 lot of traveling around the Tokyo area. I enjoyed
that very much.

68 MB: When you went into the Army, did you plan to make
it a career?

70 DH: Yes.

MB: After you left the Service -- you retired, what did
72 you do?

DH: I worked for five years as a physical therapist at
74 Colorado General Hospital. Then I quit working
there, and stayed home and started carving and
76 keeping up a house and yard, or trying to.

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MB: When you say you joined the Red Cross and then went
78 into the physical therapy part of the Army; explain
that to me?

80 DH: Well, I had never heard of physical therapy until I
was in this hospital unit. I knew I didn't want to
82 spend the rest of my life working in someone's
office, and physical therapy appealed to me. One of
84 the physical therapists I was with in Marseille
became a good friend of mine, and she answered all
86 my questions. She's still a good friend of mine;
and I came home and went to p t school and worked
88 for a little over a year as a civilian, and then
joined the Army.

90 MB: What does being a member of WOSL mean to you?

DH I've always liked my country, and this is a
:
patriotic organization; and our local unit has a lot
92 of neat people in it.

*WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE
DOROTHY HAUGHTON, Denver Unit*

94 MB: Would you recommend a career in the Service for a
young woman today?

96 DH: Well, I think you have to have a special type
of personality to really enjoy it, and
the Army is so

98 different now from what it was when I was in it,
that that's a hard question to answer. I enjoyed
100 it.

MB: O.K. Thank you very much.

102

End of Interview

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*Transcribed by Patricia Siggers
Lansing, Michigan*

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