

LILLIAN KIUELA

Lansing, Michigan Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

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Lillian Kivela

PREFACE

*This transcript is the product of a tape-recorded
interview conducted on EE January, 1986, For the W
Overseas Service League.*

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

*Transcribed by Patricia Siggers
Lansing, Michigan*

ES July, 1988

LILLIAN KIUELA

2 Lansing Unit

NOTE: Lillian Kivela is being interviewed for her service
4 overseas, and she is a member of the Lansing Unit of the
 Women 's Overseas Service League.

6 This is Elsie Hornbacher talking, and I live at
 2114 Meadowlane Drive, Lansing, f1 48906.

a My telephone number is C517) 321-2453.

EH: Lillian, what is your address?

10 LK: 4644 Grand Woods Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48917. Same
 area code Cas yours) C517) 323-2422.

12 EH: Lillian, where did you serve overseas?

 LK: England, mainly.

14 EH: What made you decide to go overseas?

 LK: Oh, I don 't know. Of course, I went into the Army first.
16 That was the first decision to make, and I was going
 because everybody was going into the Army. I
 thought,
IB well, it 's my chance; I 'll go too.

 EH: Things were a little different back in that day and age,
20 weren 't they?

 LK: Oh, sure. I had two brothers in the service.

EE EH: Oh, you did have two brothers?

 LK: Yes, and I Joined also.

£4 EH: How long had they gone before you went?

 LK: They were in quite early. fly one brother went in, I
£6 think, in '40, and my other brother went in, in '41.

 EH: And you went in- what year?

£8 LK: In 1843.

 EH: You were in the Army Nurse Corps? Then you said you
30 decided to go because you had two brothers, and it was
 the trend of the day to go overseas- and to help in the
3£ war effort. I think America was quite different back in
 those days than it is now. We were much more patriotic.
34 Had you worked before you went into the- ?

 LK: I had graduated from nurses' training a year before, but
36 I had not worked except private duty occasionally. I
 went to college, and was going to get a degree in nursing
38 education at that time. But I dropped that and went into
 the service.

40 EH: Where were you inducted?

 LK: At Schick General Hospital in Clinton, Iowa.

4£ EH: Iowa. Were you born in Iowa?

LK: Yes, I was; but I grew up in South Dakota.

44 EH: Just ramble on and tell me about your beginning
experiences, and trace it through the war.

46 LK: At Schick General? Well, that was Just a relatively new
general hospital because the nurses' quarters still were
48 not equipped with furniture. I remember arriving there
in the middle of the night when I First went into the
50 service. The night duty nurse took me over to a room
with two sheets. It was chilly, and I didn 't know
58 whether to use my Jacket for a pillow or a cover. It was
very miserable the rest of the night. After that, we
54 had- there were about ten or twelve of us- arrived there
about the same time. We did our basic training and all
56 that type of thing together.

EH: What was your housing like there?

58 LK: Barracks type. We had a room of our own with a bathroom
between two rooms.

60 EH: How many people in a room?

LK: Just one.

68 EH: Oh, you had a private room then, and a bathroom between
and a roommate on the other side. Did you have to wear a
64 uniform then?

LK: Well, actually, not all the time because they didn 't have
66 uniforms For everybody. They did give us- actually when
I got there, they gave us the old World War I blue
68 uniforms. They 're beautifully made. I 've still got some
of them. Later, they went to the OD Cor the olive drab
70 uniforms). But I have several pictures taken in those
old blues.

78 EH: How long were you in Iowa? And what was your basic
training like there?

74 LK: Oh, we had two weeks of marching and drilling and hiking,
and then w e 'd go to training films Just like other
76 soldiers did. It was a two-week affair. We didn
't really go to- where they shoot the bullets over;
we
78 didn 't do that. I c a n 't remember what they call that.
But then we worked on wards, and I think I worked on a
BO cardiovascular ward there- took blood pressures all day
long. There were a lot of rheumatic Fever patients.
88 Then I think I went on night duty on the officers' ward.

EH: Who were these patients? Soldiers who had returned?

84 LK: No, they hadn 't gone overseas yet. I think a lot of them
came from Fort Leonardwood and around that area, that had
86 gotten severe- had flu epidemic there that was terrible.
Then afterwards, they had a lot of rheumatic fever and

BB problems that followed that in that area down there in
 Missouri.

BO EH: You were there two weeks?

 LK: No, I was there longer, but our basic training lasted two
BE weeks. I was there from June until October.

 EH: 1343?

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LK: ransferred to □ 'Reilly General in Springfield,
 Missouri.

Y

e EH: Springfield, Missouri, now. OK, and what did you do
s at Springfield, Missouri?

.

T LK: Well, I started working on a cardiovascular ward
h there. Then I moved to a surgical ward and went on night
e duty. Uery interesting. I noticed Dr.
n Meade, who died Just recently, was at O 'Reilly
I General. That surprised me.
 Anyway, I was there until- November. Then my orders
 came to go overseas.

w

EH: Until November of 1343?

a

s LK: So I wasn 't there very long; at O 'Reilly General. Just
 a couple of months, I think.

t

EH: What about friendships, etc., during that period of time?
 You probably didn 't- ?

LK: I d o n 't have any continuing friendships From O 'Reilly.
Of course, some of them at Schick General- when I 'd been

110 there- eventually Joined the same unit I went overseas
with, so I knew people from that time that continued on.
H E Well, we returned to Schick General, surprisingly enough,
114 and the 91st General was forming there. Actually, they
had been training when I was there before. The corpsmen
were training at Schick General for the 51st, so it had
116 been forming for some time. June 51st, I guess, was when
they started, so it was Just about the time I went into
118 the service that the 51st started training. Then they
all came back to Schick General. They picked up their
1E0 nurses and doctors, and they arrived there.

From there, we went to our station where we went overseas
1SE which would have been at Brunswick, New Jersey. We were
there in Brunswick for several weeks at that point until
184 they were waiting for a ship to take us overseas.

We got into New York two or three times, and I went down
1E6 to Philadelphia twice. So we got a little bit of sight
seeing in there.

1
E8 EH: You were able to entertain yourselves, rather than work
at that period of time. Were you afraid of going
130 overseas?

138 LK: N o .

EH: No Fear at all. Were you anxious to go?

134 LK: Well, sure. (Laughter) Sounded like a good idea at the
time. We went to overseas and Finally got on the
13B Aquitania, which is a sister ship of the Lusitania.

EH: Is this a big ship or a little ship?

13B LK: It had eight thousand troops on it.

EH: That 's a large one, isn 't it?

LK: It was a large one, although they were crowded.
140 Normally, it wouldn't carry that many people. I
would say it was Four times as many as they normally
142 carry.

EH: But a big ship rides better than a small one, doesn't it?

144 LK: Well, that 's a matter of opinion. (Laughter) It was
pretty rough. No, I didn 't get seasick. I reFused to.

146 EH: What kind of Facilities did you have on the ship? Were
you down low or up above?

148 LK: I c a n 't even remember what- we never stayed in the rooms.

EH: I see.

150 LK: W e 'd always go up on deck. That way, you didn 't get sick
up there.

152 EH: How many were in your rooms in the cabin?

154 LK: We had a cabin For- would have been for one person, but
there were three bunks in it. So there were three times
156 as many in the room. We turned on the water- the fresh
water- an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening.

EH: Then you could take your showers?

158 LK: Yes, you had to do everything in that hour. They did
have salt water; but I tried to shower in that, and that
160 was pretty terrible. CLaughter)
Then we had two meals a day; two sittings. That 's all
162 you had.

EH: You didn 't have breakfast?

164 LK: No, Just two meals.

EH: You mean, you got up in the morning? And how long did
166 you have to wait to eat?

LK: I d o n 't know. They had four sittings. They had people
168 divided into what they called four sittings so whatever
sitting you were at, you went at that time. I have some
170 stuff at home that tells me about when it was, but I
didn 't bring it.

172 EH: Was the food good?

LK: No. CLaughter)

174 EH: You had enough of it though, didn 't you?

176 LK: It was pretty terrible. For breakfast, we were served
176 kidneys and liver and stuff you were not used to. And
170 the problem was, people would get sick; and they didn 't
170 clean it up. They would Just throw sawdust on the floor.

 EH: Oo, you mean in the kitchen? And in the dining room?

180 LK: Yes, that 's right. And if you weren 't ill when you went
 down there, you were— you almost got ill down there, but
182 I survived.

 EH: How long was this trip?

184 LK: Ten days.

 EH: Ten days at sea?

186 LK: Normally, it would be a— I think when I came back, it
 took five days. But they zig-zagged. They said they
188 went down as far as the Azores because it was a long
 troopship.

190 EH: Did you go across the sea— the Atlantic— blacked out? Or
 did you have lights on your ship?

192 LK: Oh, they had it blacked out.

 EH: They had it blacked out— right. See, I have never
194 experienced that.

 LK: Oh, yes. You didn 't have any lights, but they would let

136 us up on deck at night. You felt your way around deck.
It was kind of interesting. One night we decided- they
198 had a lounge. It was almost impossible to get a seat in
the lounge, so one day we sat and saved this table all
800 day long so we would have a place to sit at night. It
wasn 't worth it. CLaughterD Ule took turns holding this
808 table down so w e 'd have a place to sit that night.

EH: Were the officers and the enlisted men separated on these
804 ships?

LK: Yes.

806 EH: Were you with the officers or the enlisted men?

LK: I was with the officers. Out of those eight thousand
808 troops, there were only two hundred and twenty women on
board so it was kind of interesting.

810 EH: Could you play Bridge all day or something like that?

LK: I remember playing cards occasionally in the lounge, but
818 we stayed out on deck because it was a lot more pleasant
out there.

814 EH: You went over during what month?

LK: March. It was rough.

LILLIAN KIUELA, Lansing Unit

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BIB EH: It uias cold out on deck, wasn 't it then?

LK: Oh, yes; we wore our coats and our gear. You had to wear
BIB your gas masks, and you had to wear this- and all this
stuff. You had to keep it handy.

BBO EH: Did you have any communications, radio communications as
to what was going on? In 1943, I 'm trying to think of
BBS where the action was at that time.

LK: I d o n 't know; I think they 'd had action in North
224 Africa, but they hadn 't gone into Europe yet.

EH: I see. The Germans were marching into Holland at that
BB6 time, do you think?

LK: Well, I think they already had.
228 But it was a very interesting trip, and we met young men.
Once a day they made everybody go up on deck to a drill.
230 You had to run around a certain place. They had a path
that you had to follow to get to your lifeboat. From
B3B what I understand, they had two thousand lifeboats for
eight thousand people; so if they had have gone down, it
B34 would have been pretty sad. But we didn 't have any
trouble.

EH: Two thousand for eight thousand; that 's only four to
B36 a lifeboat. That isn 't many, is it?

E38 LK: Nq , two thousand lifeboats- enough For two thousand
people.

£40 EH: Oh, I see what you mean. I didn 't think there would
be two thousand- that 's a lot-

E4E LK: No, there were Just enough lifeboats for two thousand.
But on our lifeboat, we used to have fun standing out
£44 there on deck. We had a Navy beach battalion; a few of
them were in our lifeboat. Rather odd; this beach
£46 battalion came into our unit- to our hospital later for
some training after they had landed on D day. They came
£48 back for some more training, and I saw this young man
again that had been in our lifeboat assignment on deck.
It was quite a trip. There 's no two ways about it.
E50 Then arriving at Greenock, in Scotland,-

E5E EH: What 's the name of that place, spell it.
G-r-e-n-o-c-h?

£54 LK: I think that 's right. It 's right outside Glasgow, I
guess. It 's way out on the end, and most of the ships
E56 that came in landed there because that 's as far as they
could come in. It was quite interesting when we First
E5B saw land. That was kind of exciting. A couple of
spitfires came out and flew around the ship, and it was
EGO kind of exciting. For spitfires-

EH: What 's a spitfire? I 'm not sure.

262

LK: It uias the English Fighter plane.

264 So then we went on, and they took us From the ship onto
the- : Going back a little bit, it was interesting

loading that ship at New York. We all wound in there;

266 CLaughterD went in the side door, or the side of the
pier; marched in there. We all had to carry our own

268 luggage. We were loaded. CLaughter)

EH: You had to carry your own luggage?

270 LK: Oh, yes. Then we watched. I remember seeing them load
lockers. Our lockers were put on separately;

272 footlockers. We saw some dropping in the water. We were
hoping it wasn 't ours. CLaughterD

274 EH: Actually, some of the footlockers were lost?

LK: Oh, yes. They dropped right down into the water when
276 they were loading them.

EH: In the footlockers, were they Army issue clothes in there
278 or your own personal clothes?

LK: Mostly our personal things we took over; although, some
280 were issue also. We had been issued our striped
uniforms and capes. What we had on
were- I think we wore slacks

EBB and our heavy overcoat-type thing and all that when we
were going on. We were pretty packed, let me tell you.

EB4 EH: Doesn 't sound like too pleasant of a trip.

LK: Well, it wasn 't too bad. We were young. (Laughter)

EBB EH: I know. You can experience those things and enjoy them,
then. Hardships are a challenge.

EBB LK: We were all doing the same thing, so that makes a big
difference. Anyway, we got over there. Then from
E30 Greenock, we went on the train to Llandudno, Wales. This
is a resort town in Wales, and it had little hotels right
E9S along the beach. That 's what we were billeted in. These
English people Just told them- they were told they had to
E34 put up these people. I don 't know; they had some rough
times, too, I 'm pretty sure. I gained about ten pounds
E3B almost rapidly there because we were told we had to eat
everything we had on our plate. Everything was starchy.
E3B There was a real change of diet. We wouldn't get any
fresh things, and it was a real starchy food.

300 EH: Did you get any meat?

LK: Oh, yes; they had meat. Of course, that was the powdered
milk - powdered egg days. (Laughter) Never saw any fresh
30E milk, all the time you were over there.

304 EH: I know. That 's the one thing I wanted when I came
 back from Tokyo, was a glass of milk!

305 LK: Right. The powdered milk wasn 't as good as what they
 have now.

308 EH: I know; we had the mechanical cow in Tokyo, and it was
 acceptable. We called it the mechanical cow where they
310 reconstituted the milk but it was nothing like the real
 Mc Coy.

318 LK: We tried not to drink milk over there because we were
 afraid of TB, I guess. Some of their cows were not
314 properly tested, or something. We were told not to drink
 English milk.

315 EH: Yes. Back in those days, undulant fever was a problem.
 Now, y o u 're in Wales. Have you begun working?

318 LK: No, we were Just there. They had us marching a little
 every day. I think I had a flu, and I went to a hospital
380 for a few days, too.

 EH: What was your housing like there in Wales?

388 LK: In Wales? Well, it was a hotel- cold. (Laughter! No
 heat.

384 EH: This is March- April?

LK: Yes. They didn 't have any heat in the hotels. There
326 were several in the rooms. We were quite doubled up. We
had quite a Few sleeping- you know; if you had a double
3EB bed, they would sleep two of you in i t . I don 't
remember. There weren 't too many in there; about ten of
330 us in one hotel- I guess about ten or eleven.
Then we had to march clear down- it was about a mile to
332 where the mess hall was.

EH: Do, you had to walk a mile to eat?

334 LK: Yes, I had to walk about a mile to eat.

EH: Twice a day?

336 LK: No. Three times, there. (Laughter)

EH: Oh, three times there. Well, you had three meals; and
33B would that be six miles a day or three miles?

LK: I suppose it would if you went back to the room. Then we
340 did the marching. We were there Easter, I remember.
That was Fascinating. They had an Easter service up on
342 this hill in Llangollen, and it was very interesting.
They had the Sunrise Service up there on this big hill.
344 I think Lewis Carroll must have had something to do with
that area because they had a monument with the rabbit by
346 a pond, so apparently Lewis Carroll spent some time in
this area; I have Forgotten.

34B EH: Who is Lewis Carroll?

 LK: He wrote Alice in Wonderland.

350 EH: Oh, yes.

 LK: It was a very interesting place— Welsh; and there's all
352 those odd names.

 Now, I guess while we were doing this, the colonel was
354 dickering For where we were going to go. He chose
 Oxford, I guess.

356 EH: Oxford?

 LK: Well, it was in a suburb of Oxford. Headington was the
358 name of the little suburb. He chose this hospital; it
 was a brick hospital with steam heat Cbelieve it or not).

360 It was an American hospital in Britain. It had been
 built with American money during the battle of Britain,
362 so they let the Americans use it. It was a hospital
 with quonsets— they had quonset huts and brick buildings;
364 and with the two, it was a thousand bed
 hospital.

366 Later, when we went to tents, we must have added at
 least five hundred patients; so we got up to fifteen
368 hundred, with personnel to take care of all of them.

 According to something I 've heard recently,
370 this was the biggest hospital in the European
 theater that we were in. Of course, the

c olonel made it pretty much of a showplace.

37B An awful lot of people used to come there. They were
always having visitors; generals and what-not. Ue were
always cleaning, I 'll tell you.

374 D day was the 6th. Our hospital was open before that, of
course. Our patients would be boys that were- well, I
376 know we had some paratroopers- one that had his hand
broken because it had gotten in the way of a propeller;
378 accidents that had occurred in the normal run of things.

On D day, we got our first patient load, which was around
380 three hundred patients. The interesting thing about some
of those early cases were they had rifle wounds, not very
382 large wounds. Later, as they went on in to inland, they
had shrapnel- which the wounds were much nastier.

384 For awhile, we were very busy. Ue would work about ten
hours a day. Ue didn 't get our hours off that we had
386 normally gotten, but in time we did, when things simmered
down and they had the surgeries caught up and the
388 hospital was full.

Uhen they 'd come to our hospital, they usually came from
first aid or station hospitals where they did not attempt
330 to treat the wounds. They would slap a bandage on and
then put a cast on it; so when they would arrive at our
332 hospital, the cast would be very bloody. Then they would
take them up to surgery and do the first repair work.

334 Ue had some excellent surgeons in our unit. I worked on
an orthopedic ward, and we had many severe bone injuries.
336

I remember one case that appeared to have a gas gangrene
39B type thing that started bubbling, and boy, did they take
him up in a hurry! That 's the only one I saui. They used
400 to have so much trouble with gas gangrene in World War I .
□F course, at this time, penicillin was being used. We
402 had quite a bit of penicillin, and they used it on a lot
of patients. I remember penicillin in those days was a
404 bright yellow and smelled to high heaven. It really was
a nasty smelling stuff. They got it so it was more
406 refined later on. Penicillin you get nowadays is
different. But it did work, and we didn 't have too many
408 infections. I remember some Russians visiting our ward
once to see how come we didn 't have very many infections.
410 They came and visited the ward.

I stayed on the orthopedic ward almost the full time I
412 was over there with an occasional shift to another place,
but not too often. You took your turn on night duty.
414 Off hours were kind of fun. We had a good time over in
England. Oxford had a nice theatre, and we went to plays
416 every so often. I saw some famous actors and actresses
there. Uivian Leigh was in one play I saw. John
418 Gielgud, who became famous later over here in the U.S.; I
saw him in Hamlet over there. We got into London several
420 times. It wasn 't a very long run on the train to London
from Oxford. It was a short run.

422 EH: What do you mean by short?

 LK: I guess an hour, maybe.

424 EH: That mould be short.

 LK: Wasn 't bad. We had good times in London. When me mere
426 in Wales, an officer had made arrangements and ordered a
 lot of bikes; so me all bought an English bike, or many
428 of us did. Then m e 'd bike around tomn. I had a great
 bike. It mas a nice little bike. I mish I 'd thought to
430 bring it home. Some people did ship them home, but I
 never did. I Just sold it over there. Maybe that mas
432 Just as mell because me mere able to get them, and maybe
 they couldn't. A lot of people used bikes over there.
434 They did a lot of their transportation on bicycles.

 EH: I imagine there mas a shortage of gasoline and supplies
436 in general?

 LK: Oh, yes. They mere severely rationed.

438 EH: Horn did the English treat you?

 LK: Nice. Welsh, I didn 't get too acquainted mith. We
440 meren 't there that long. They mere nice.

 EH: Were they glad to have you there?

44E LK: I don 't know. I guess so. They had to put up with a
lot, I think, From Americans. I met one couple- I went
444 to a town outside of Oxford. fly cousin had been
stationed there, and he gave me their name. I went to
44B visit their home. It was a town called Chipping Norton.
Then they came in to Oxford once, and I took them out to
44B the hospital to eat. I met them downtown.
We had this couple- interesting- they had two children
450 that had been evacuated from London. That 's what they
did with a lot of their children. They moved them to the
45E outskirts so they wouldn't be hurt or injured in London,
and they had two children from London there. I thought
454 that was kind of interesting.

EH: Did you see much bombing in London?

455 LK: Oh, I saw results of it. I wasn 't there

- EH: During the blackout?

45B LK: Oh, it was blackout all the time we were there, but you
'd see bombed areas. Yes, St. Paul 's Cathedral- it
450 was flat all the way around it. You c a n
't see why St.Paul 's was still there. It was
45E amazing! Here 's this cathedral right in all this
rubble. I guess one bomb did land in St. Paul 's.
454 Then some man managed to detonate it- what do you call
it?

EH: De-detonate it.

466 LK: Anyway, dismantle it.

We went to Madam Tussard's. We usually stayed at the Red
468 Cross Hotel. That was easiest; quite easy. We could eat
there.

470 EH: Did you have to pay?

LK: Oh, yes. Not much. They had an officers' mess at
472 Brovenor Square and it was at the hotel. I think it was
Grovenor Hotel. Huge room; and it was just filled with
474 tables of people eating. It was very interesting to eat
there.

476 As we were there for a long time, we would ride our bikes
for miles when we'd get off work. We had good times. It
478 wasn't bad. England wasn't a bad place to be during the
war, especially where we were. We worked, like you did:
480 One thing about it, of course— all our patients were
young men, so it was not depressing really. Sometimes it
4B2 was, of course.

EH: They had a good sense of humor, in spite of their
4B4 difficulties.

LK: Yes— they were all there, and some of them were kind of
486 glad to be—

EH: Back home?! CLaughter)

488 LK: I wanted to tell you; some of the visitors we had at this
place were very interesting. Queen Elizabeth came. This
480 was King George 's wife, you know. She came to a tea, and
we all shook hands with her.

482 EH: Oh, wonderful!

LK: You d o n 't shake hands with a queen very often. In fact,
434 they d o n 't normally shake hands, but she did. Pretty
limp hand but she was very nice; a very nice lady, and
438 she visited the hospital.

Oh, I think Joe Louis came through the hospital.
438 Frances Bolton, who was a congresswoman: She was
instrumental in having the nurses made regular officers.
500 Originally, they weren 't. They were Just- not real
officers, but she put through a bill that made them
502 officers in the Army. She would visit the hospital.
There were others, so it was quite an interesting place
504 to be. L e t 's see. Can I think of anything else that
happened in England that 's of interest?

506 EH: From D day till UE day was, roughly, almost a year,
wasn 't it? But not quite.

508 LK: I don 't remember when it was. Isn't that awful? After
UE day, our hospital closed down, and they moved us to
510 another hospital. We were supposed to go to the China-

Burma-India theater.

512 EH: Oh, C-B-I.

514 LK: Yes, but then of course, UJ day occurred while we were
sitting there. So in order to move people home on point
systems, they moved our unit over to Liege, Belgium, to
515 the hospital that was called- it was The Citadel. I
d o n 't remember which hospital we took over at that time.
518 I was in Liege From October- about six weeks. I wasn 't
in Liege too long. That was an interesting place. I went
520 on one ambulance trip to Paris to take another nurse to
the hospital. I went along with her to go to the
522 hospital, and spent a Few days in Paris then. AFTER
that, when I came back From Paris, my orders came to go
524 home. So that 's what happened.

525 EH: When you came back to the States, Lil, did you have any
particular adjustment?

528 LK: I 'll tell you; we landed in Boston. We got on the train,
I think that night (spent a day there), went to Des
Moines, Iowa, and I was home in three days. It was a
530 terrible adjustment. I think some oF the awFullest times
I spent in my liFe was aFter I came back From the service.
532 We came back From all that activity- all the
somebody around all the time- to nothing. Nothing!

534 EH: Where were you living then?

536 LK: I was in South Dakota. My mother was in Brookings, so I
stayed there a few months; then decided I was going out
538 to California to look around. So I did: I went out to
California and visited my cousins, and I considered going
540 to UCLA to school. The lines were so long with the
veterans, to just get a smidgen of information, that I
542 didn 't go there. Cl think I 'm pretty close to winding up
this, am I not? I 'm back after the war.) (Laughter)
Except it was interesting; going to school with all the
544 veterans. When I returned, I came to Michigan State, of
course.
546 There were a lot of good days in there, and I still have
friends that I made. Our unit still has reunions, and
548 we 've had them different parts of the country. Our
colonel- h e 's in his 8 0 's now- has attended every
550 reunion. He says this one in June will be his last one.
H e 's an interesting man. He put out a book; he published
552 a book privately and called it Oxford Angels. Reading
it, he was in a different place than I was. (Laughter)
554 Of course, he was with dukes and all the different big
wigs, and that 's what his book talks about. It 's still
556 interesting to have because it has pictures, and it does
tell some things that you didn 't know was going on when
558 you were over there in the unit. So it 's an
interesting book, and I 'm glad I have
it.

560 EH: Then you went to Michigan State, and you finished your
degree there?

562 LK: Yes. I didn 't want to go back to South Dakota. I
decided I Just didn 't want to go back to South Dakota.

564 EH: What drew you to Michigan?

566 LK: I had a cousin that was living here, and you could get
into Michigan State if you had a place to live. That
all they required. Everything was Full; dormitory
568 housing was very short, and my cousin lived in an
apartment not too far from East Lansing. In fact, when I
570 came here she had me all ready to go to school. She had
done all my paperwork for me. All I had to do was walk
572 here and look silly and walk in, and I was in school. I
went seven terms Cl had gone a year at South Dakota
574 State), and I finished my degree. I chose microbiology
Cbacteriology, then) because they didn 't have any nursing
576 program at that time. If they had have, I probably would
have continued with that.

578 EH: Thank you, Lil. That was Lillian Kivela recording for
the Lansing Unit of the Womens' Overseas Service League,
the 22nd of January, 1986. Thank you.
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Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

