

MARJORIE UARNER

Denver, Colorado Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Reminiscence

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Marjorie Uarner

PREFACE

This transcript is the product of a tape-recorded reminiscence conducted on 17 June, 1983, 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*

1987

MARJORIE UARNER

E Denver Unit

MU: This is Tape No. E From the Denver Unit. My name is
4 Marjorie Uarner, and I joined the Denver Unit of WOSL
1971. I was president From 1974 until 1976, and I 've
B been president since 198E. I was a member oF the Army
Nurse Corps. I Joined in 1949, and retired in 1971.
B During my nurse's training, I was a member oF the Cadet
Nurse Corps, and decided when I graduated that I would
10 pay back the Army For the money they gave me For my
nurse's training; and oF course, I joined also For the
1E adventure oF it.
Prior to enlistment, I went to Junior college one year,
14 and worked at various Jobs such as grocery store,
drug store- that type oF thing.
16 During the service, I did general duty and then the
Army sent me to Finish my bachelor's degree and I went
into
18 teaching; and did mostly surgical-type nursing in my
general duty. I was supervisor at a couple oF
hospitals,
SO and then went back into teaching; and then I was
Director oF the Critical Nurse Corps, which is equivalent
to the
EE Civilian Practical Nurse Corps. My last duty assignment
prior to retirement- I was Assistant Chief Nurse at

S4

Fitzsimmons when Rita Geis, who did Tape No. 1, was
Chief Nurse.

26 During my twenty-two years in the Nurse Corps, I had
many, varied assignments; although stateside I was
only
28 stationed at Brook General Hospital, and later, Brook
Army Medical Center and Fitzsimmons in Colorado. Then
30 the Army sent me to complete my bachelor's degree;
and then sent me For my master's degree in nursing.
32 My overseas assignments were Germany, Puerto Rico For
two years (I enjoyed that— great climate), and during
war
34 time: Well, I guess I shouldn't say war time, either.
During the 'conflicts," I was stationed in Korea and
in
36 Vietnam.
During my length of service, I lived in various types of
38 housing; nurses' quarters, quonset huts, and also of
course, lived off post. Our uniform dress varied From
40 pinks and greens, Fatigues, and probably the poorest—
in which most people looked not very well— was the
uniform
42 designed by Hattie Carnegie.
During my Army Nurse Corps career, (Of course many, many
44 memorable experiences), I think probably one I remember
most, (vividly, anyway, and not a particularly
memorable

46 except that— well, it was memorable, too) was that
 during our intake of casualties, I was going to take
 a young
48 man's blood pressure and reached under the covers For
 one arm, and the young man had no arm. So I reached
 For the
50 other arm, under the covers, and the young man had no
 extremity on that side. I think that probably was a
 very

5B shacking experience to me, and I still remember
it. During Uietnam, uie tack the M.U.S.C. Hospital
Cthe
54 Medical Unit, Self-Contained) down to the Delta, and of
course, that was an interesting experience.
55 Comparing service careers then with the present: That's
kind of difficut to do because I've been away from it
58 for so long now that I 'm really not that knowledgeable
on the service; except that back then I think there was
a
50 little more togetherness. But I think some of this
could be attributed to the fact that back then, most of
us
62 lived on post, and now personnel can live off
post. Probably more men now than we had serving.
64 As far as adjustment is concerned, I don't think I
really had any adjustment. Nurses training was a
rather
66 disciplined area, and we lived with different
peoples, regulations; so I don't think we had any kind
of
68 adjustment, particularly.
As I stated, I retired in 1871, and shortly after that I
70 took a real estate course and found out that really
wasn't my thing. I did some volunteer work,
golfing,

72 that type of thing. I have enjoyed being a member of
 UIDSL, I think basically because of the association with
74 friends and acquaintances. I've met many new people,
 not only in our own unit, but at our conventions, so it
 has
76 been very worth while for me.

This concludes Tape No. From the Denver Unit.

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Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

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Lansing, Michigan