

HAZEL PERCIUAL

Denver, Colorado Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

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Hazel Percival

PREFACE

This transcript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted on 23 May, 1386, 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*

6 July 1388

HAZEL PERCIUAL

E Denver Unit

MB: What is your name?

4 HP: Hazel Percival.

MB: When did you Join the Denver Unit of WDSL?

6 HP: Roughly, about 1370,- along in there. I 'm not sure.

MB: What branch of the service did you serve?

B HP: Army Nurse Corps.

MB: Why did you join the Army Nurse Corps?

10 HP: Well, at that time it was the thing to do, and they were talking about drafting nurses.

IE MB: Around what date did you Join?

HP: In 1363 CsicJ 1343.

into the Army Nurse Corps came what did you
do?

16 HP: I worked at St. Luke 's Hospital, Just general duty .

MB: What did you do in the service?

HAZEL PERCIUAL, Denver Unit

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IB HP: I did a little bit of everything From teaching to

training and caring For patients.

20 MB: How long were you in the Army Nurse Corps?

HP: Twenty three years.

22 MB: What were your overseas assignments?

HP: My First one was to Europe. I went over there in 1943,
24 and was there For two years— came home '45, assigned to
Fitzsimmons. I thought they lost me. I stayed there For
26 seven years. (Laughter)

Pretty soon I got orders, and where did I go?
Panama!

28 What a delightful place— once you get used to the
heat and the bugs and the animals. From
Panama, back to

30 Colorado again. I stayed in Colorado till I went
to Alabama.

32 Then I went to Korea; a delightful tour in Korea. I
do say 'delightful' because war was
over, and it was

34 pleasant over there— once you got used to the smell:
From Korea back to Texas, and From Texas to Alabama:
36 From Alabama back to Fitzsimmons, and then I was
retired here.

38 MB: Tell me about the kind of housing you had when you
were in the service.

HO HP: Well, that housing varied from tent to semi-permanent
type buildings; quonset huts, old apartment buildings
HE that had been taken over, but overall- I don 't think me
were lacking in adequate housing. It wasn 't really
what HH we had been accustomed to where we grew u p . Warm but
comfortable, and lacked many of the niceties of life.
H6 CLaughter)

HB: How did you feel about the medical care that you got
H8 while you were in the service?

HP: Well, I was so disgustingly healthy, I didn 't have any
50 medical care other than annual physicals.

n B : Can you tell me about a couple of your memorable
5S experiences; funny, sad, or whatever?

HP: Off hand, I just c a n 't think of anything in particular
5H that would be interesting- because you 've all had so many
funny experiences. I guess going over aboard ship was
55 the most exciting because the war was on in Europe then.
We went in convoy out of New York; two days later picked
58 up more convoy out of Boston, and then went clear up to
Iceland. Then Iceland- made the big bend across the top
50 of the world down into Scotland. We debarked in
Scotland; Greenock, one of the towns on the west side of
5E the island there.

MB: What date was this?

64 HP: That had to be 1343— toward the end of '43. I came in in
the summer. It was in December.

66 MB: What was your First assignment over there during the war?

HP: Well, I went over with the station hospital, and my First
68 assignment was housekeeper For the nurses. (Laughter)

MB: Where was that hospital located?

70 HP: Our hospital was between Barnstaple and Bideford in
Southwest England.

78 MB: In those days, a nurse was a housekeeper— right?

HP: Yes, we did, and the only reason I got the job was the
74 fact that I had such a cold they wouldn't let me go on
the wards to work. I thought I was never going to get
76 rid of this housekeeping job; which I did, Finally, and
got to be a nurse.

78 MB: When you First went in the service, what was the greatest
adjustment you ever had to make?

80 HP: Getting used to so many people around you. I had grown
up in a small town with no brothers and sisters, so I was
88 pretty much a loner. Then, to be thrust in with a whole

mob; literally, that was my big adjustment. But, oh! it

84 was wonderful.

MB: When you went in the Army Nurse Corps, did you plan to
BE make it a career?

HP: I sort of did, yes.

88 MB: When did you finally decide that you were going to stay
 in?

80 HP: On board ship, coming back from Europe. In 1845, I
 decided this is as good a place as any for me. I ended
98 up here at Fitzsimmons and went regular army.

MB: After you retired, what did you do?

34 HP: Absolutely nothing!

MB: You really retired!

86 HP: That 's what retirement is, isn 't it?

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

88 HP: Well, I think i t 's some of the finest group of people I
 have known in my life. W e 're not all nurses, but w e
 '---
100 all served our country in some way, shape, or form in
 years past.

108 Socially, I think i t 's a fine organization; and they do
 wonderful work, too.

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10B Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

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