

1 Interview of Betty Lieby on her experiences during and after World War II while serving
2 in the Red Cross and working as a civilian recruiter for the U.S. Army

3
4

5Elsie Hornbacher: [Inaudible 00:04] Elsie Hornbacher is recording for the Women's
6 Overseas Service League. Uh, Betty Lieby is being interviewed on her
7 experience overseas. My address is 2114 Meadow Lane Drive, Lansing,
8 Michigan, and the telephone number, the area code is 517, and the number
9 is 321-2453. I can be located at this number, um, at any time. This is for
10 the Lansing unit of the Women's Overseas Service League. The date is
11 November 21, 1985. Betty's address is 6091 Brookhaven Lane, #33.
12 That's apartment #33. In East Lansing, Michigan. The zip is 485...

13

14Betty Lieby: [No 1:15]...48823.

15

16Elsie Hornbacher: 48823. Her telephone number with the area code 517, uh, 351-2518. Go
17 ahead Betty. [1:35] First of all, um, Betty, um, uh, generally, where were
18 you born?

19

20Betty Lieby: Uh, I was born in Saint Claire, Michigan.

21

22Elsie Hornbacher: [1:48] And, uh, what were your parents' names?

23

24Betty Lieby: Uh...

25

26Elsie Hornbacher: The maiden name of your mother and then her, uh, married name.

27

28Betty Lieby: Uh, mother's maiden name was Louise Simmons and my father's name
29 was Benjamin Isom, I-S-O-M. Uh, he was born in Atlanta and my mother
30 was born in Bay City, and I left, they, I was born in Saint Claire but lived
31 in Detroit for my 23 years prior to going overseas with the Red Cross.

32

33Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [2:17] You said Atlanta, Atlanta...

34

35Betty Lieby: Georgia.

36

37Elsie Hornbacher: Georgia. I see. Uh, them, um, uh, well, I guess y-, you can go ahead with
38 your experiences overseas, uh, uh, [2:29] roughly what gave you the idea
39 to g-, go overseas?

40

41Betty Lieby: Uh, my job, uh, I was a secretary for Lt. Randolph M. Smith and then was
42 promoted to, um, I was in charge of personnel for the tool and equipment
43 division of the office chief of ordinance in Detroit. I was 23. I had a
44 secretary who was 25. We discussed travel a great deal, and she advised

1 me one day that Red Cross, uh, was, would be interviewing people and she
2 wanted to go, uh, and of course I, I did too. I had a super job, but, uh, this
3 was so exciting. Uh, they did say that on a rare occasion, they would pass
4 an age waiver. Uh, you were supposed to have two years of college or
5 business experience equivalent to that to be acceptable. Well, I certainly
6 had the business experience.
7
8Elsie Hornbacher: [3:33] This was in the Detroit area?
9
10Betty Lieby: In the Detroit area, uh-huh. So we went in, and, uh, they kept calling me
11 back. Poor Anna was not called back. She [chuckle], she wasn't, uh,
12 accepted and I, I said nothing to the colonel. I said nothing to my mother. I
13 never dreamed they would take me, uh, uh, because of my age. I...
14
15Elsie Hornbacher: [3:57] How old did you have to be?
16
17Betty Lieby: Twenty-five.
18
19Elsie Hornbacher: Twenty-five.
20
21Betty Lieby: And I was 23.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
24
25Betty Lieby: I got a letter on March 16 of 1945 that said that I had been accepted, that,
26 uh, I would beginning, would be, uh, uh, sent to Washington for two
27 weeks' training.
28
29Elsie Hornbacher: 1945, the war is almost over.
30
31Betty Lieby: Yes, that's right. And, uh, for two weeks' training at the American
32 University, uh, so on April 16, 1945, that's where I went. And, um, to the
33 [chuckle] uh, we sold the house, the colonel was angry, everything was
34 sad there. I had a lot to do in one month.
35
36Elsie Hornbacher: You sold [what 4:39] house.
37
38Betty Lieby: Uh, the house that mother and I had.
39
40Elsie Hornbacher: I see.
41
42Betty Lieby: And she went to, to Saint Charles to live with her sister. And, um, so we
43 were in Washington for two weeks at the American University. It was, it
44 was lovely. I met a lot of nice gals, and, uh, then 12 of us were sent to

1 Langley Field for extension training and eight of us were, were, were
2 recalled the very next day of the 12, and off we went to the New York, uh,
3 port of embarkation in Brooklyn. We were there a couple of nights, and
4 they gave us one free night. We went in to Times Square and went into
5 Jack Dempsey's, four of us. Jack Dempsey was in there and Gene Autry.
6 We got their autographs, quite exciting.
7
8Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
9
10Betty Lieby: And we were in our Red Cross uniforms.
11
12Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
13
14Betty Lieby: Then we were shipped out on the S.S. Argentina to England. That was,
15 um, uh, in convoy and it took 14 days, zigging and zagging, uh, overseas,
16 and went into London, and, uh, we were in London several days and
17 received our assignment. And I went to Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, that's in
18 the midlands of England in the pottery district. And I was there until the
19 club closed. I had a, got a new club director while there, uh, [Marian Carol
20 6:08], who was a charming, wonderful friend, uh, and, um, uh, the Red
21 Cross club director before was shipped back to the States. And, um, we
22 used to take the boys on tours of the pottery district, uh, Wedgewood and,
23 uh, Mytton and Spoad were closed at that time.
24
25Elsie Hornbacher: [6:30] Betty, roughly, uh, was that a big base?
26
27Betty Lieby: Uh, Stone was on the outskirts, it was an airbase, and...
28
29Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
30
31Betty Lieby: ...we had, we had, uh, the club was a very busy one. It was three floors.
32 We served meals on the third floor.
33
34Elsie Hornbacher: I see.
35
36Betty Lieby: We had band, uh, a band, uh, played there and the, um, the boys had to
37 register their dates the night before and bring them in to dance, and it was
38 a busy, busy club. We took, I took a tour, uh, some of the boys to Stratford
39 on Avon on a tour and we always kept them busy.
40
41Elsie Hornbacher: [7:04] You roughly would have several hundred there at a time?
42
43Betty Lieby: Oh, yes.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, I see.
2

3Betty Lieby: Oh, yes, absolutely, and it was, uh, it wa-, and then, uh, Stone, uh, was the
4 closest base.
5

6Elsie Hornbacher: [7:14] You would have quite a personnel, uh...
7

8Betty Lieby: Oh, yes.
9

10Elsie Hornbacher: ...uh, in the club.
11

12Betty Lieby: We had, um, uh, the Red Cross director and two, uh, three Red Cross girls
13 at the beginning, and then that, uh, was, uh, we were down to two Red
14 Cross girls, but we did have quite a staff of British people. We had a
15 lovely lady, Mrs. [Llewellyn we-, Leach 7:37], who, um, uh, obtained the
16 hostesses, uh, for the dances, and, um, uh, we had a lot of the ladies up in
17 the, uh, cafeteria area. They did have a habit of putting the gravy all over
18 the whole dish when the boys went through the line, th-, and, uh, they
19 complained about that, but, uh, we, uh, we, they, that's the way they eat
20 their food over there, and we...
21

22Elsie Hornbacher: [8:02] They didn't make a little hole for it to go into, did they?
23

24Betty Lieby: No, they did not. They put the gravy over everything, so we asked'm to
25 just, uh, uh, confine it to the potatoes. Um, we did give free donuts
26 contrary to a lot of the, uh, the discussion by the boys that they had to pay
27 for their donuts. We did give free donuts, and, uh, that seemed to be a
28 policy, uh, that the commanding general of an area, uh, doled out. That
29 was his, uh, idea of what should be, what should be sold and what should
30 be paid for in the Red Cross. We were in the Red Cross, um, until of
31 course the war ended, and, uh, uh, little by little, the, uh, the need for the
32 Red Cross there was, uh, stopped, and so, uh, Marian and I closed the
33 club. My club director and I. The other gal had been sent along.
34

35 We went, they gave us time. We had an English Hillman, uh, little, uh,
36 van, and they gave us about week to get back to London and so
37 consequently we drove down through Wales and, uh, took in quite a lot of
38 England on the way back. It was, uh, very nice. I should also say that
39 while we were there, putting in 14 and 12 and 14 hours a day, we were
40 given a leave, a three-day leave on occasion. Marian and I, how this was
41 arranged, I can't remember, but Marian and I went into, flew into Dublin,
42 which was the Irish Free State. Marian had been in the theater, had acted,
43 uh, a bit, and her desire was to attend the, uh, one of the, uh, plays at the,
44 uh, see the Abbey players. They were, uh, uh, *Plough and the Stars* was

1 there. Eileen Crowe was the leading lady. After the performance, which
2 was, uh, very nice, we went behind the sta-, uh, behind the, um, stage and
3 met Eileen Crowe and the other members of the cast, and Eileen Crowe
4 invited us to tea the next day at the Royal Hibernian. It was very nice of
5 her. On top of that, the few days we were there...
6
7Elsie Hornbacher: [10:13] You said the Royal Hibernan?
8
9Betty Lieby: Royal Hibernian Hotel.
10
11Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, oh. A hotel. Mm-hm.
12
13Betty Lieby: [It's a, uh, 10:18], the hotel there.
14
15Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
16
17Betty Lieby: Um, and it-, we had steak there at our meals, y'know, that was the Irish
18 Free State.
19
20Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, oh, yes.
21
22Betty Lieby: They didn't, they had the really excellent food. We were invited to a big
23 ball. Everyone in formal, and there we were in our Red Cross uniforms.
24 They just treated us like we were royalty. I ended up on the stage drawing
25 the tickets for the grand prize, and, uh, they w-, the Irish were very
26 charming to us. That was an exciting experience there. But anyway, our,
27 our leaves were, were interesting, and we took in as much of England on
28 leaves as we could, and we visited other Red Cross girls in other areas, our
29 friends. When we got back to, uh, England, then we were shipped o-, out
30 to Paris. Uh, when we got into Paris, uh, it was, we weren't quickly
31 assigned. We had a little time there. And, uh, we were allowed a seven-
32 day leave, uh, to Switzerland, and, uh, and actually we were in Paris, uh,
33 on New Year's Eve, which is...
34
35Elsie Hornbacher: [11:25] This is 1940...?
36
37Betty Lieby: 1945.
38
39Elsie Hornbacher: Forty-five.
40
41Betty Lieby: And in January...
42
43Elsie Hornbacher: Forty-six, mm-hm.
44

1 Betty Lieby: ...of, January 8 of 1946, we went into, um, Weisbaden, Germany, uh, for
2 our definite assignment, and then were immediately sent out to, uh, Furth,
3 Germany. They sent us in a mail truck, uh, driven by a Frenchman named
4 George, and he could speak very little English, but, and we had quite a
5 time. Wouldn't you know the truck would break down on the outskirts of
6 Dinkelsbuhl. People gathered around us like we were...
7
8 Elsie Hornbacher: [12:01] Now Dinkelsbuhl is near what other big city? Frankfurt, or, uh...
9
10 Betty Lieby: Oh, it's, uh, no. It's not...
11
12 Elsie Hornbacher: M-, Munich, or, uh...
13
14 Betty Lieby: It's, uh, it's about halfway between...
15
16 Elsie Hornbacher: ...Nuremburg...
17
18 Betty Lieby: ...Weisbaden and Furth.
19
20 Elsie Hornbacher: Oh. It's...
21
22 Betty Lieby: It's one my favorite little cities there.
23
24 Elsie Hornbacher: [Inaudible 12:14]
25
26 Betty Lieby: Yes, yes.
27
28 Elsie Hornbacher: Yes.
29
30 Betty Lieby: And, um, in fact I returned there, uh, but anyway, uh, the people gathered
31 around as though we were most unusual people. There we were in our Red
32 Cross uniforms and all I could say was manger, George, um, and, uh, oui,
33 and we took our, uh, he had rations, so we had to eat them there. We were
34 hungry. Along came a Jeep with two, um, GIs.
35
36 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
37
38 Betty Lieby: They said, come along, we'll take care of this. So we went into
39 Dinkelsbuhl and there was a unit there, uh...
40
41 Elsie Hornbacher: [12:49] That's not too far from France, is it?
42
43 Betty Lieby: No.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: So your Germans would be able to understand a little French, wouldn't
2 they?
3

4Betty Lieby: Well, I don't know that they did. I wasn't aware of that. Um, uh, but the
5 boys took care of, uh, George, and we never did see George until the, uh,
6 they were towing the truck behind their convoy going into Furth. So we
7 arrived, um, in a convoy again, um, going into Furth with all the, the boys,
8 uh, veering out of their way somewhat to get us there.
9

10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
11

12Betty Lieby: And our truck being towed with George in it. We got into Furth. It was a
13 nice club. I was program, in program at that time. I had started as a staff
14 assist-, assistant, and then, uh, was a program director. We got into, uh,
15 Furth. We were, the 53rd base Quartermaster, uh, depot was closely
16 affiliated with this, um, with Furth, so we ate with them in the Park Hotel,
17 and because the war had ended, they still, as a matter of fact, though, when
18 we went into Germany, they still had the wire cutters on the front of the
19 Jeeps because every often, they'd string a, a rope, er, er, or a wire across
20 the rode and decapitate someone.
21

22Elsie Hornbacher: [14:07] Did you experience that?
23

24Betty Lieby: No. No, of course we didn't.
25

26Elsie Hornbacher: [14:09] And did you have to use them?
27

28Betty Lieby: Well, they were on the Jeeps but ultimately they were removed, but...
29

30Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
31

32Betty Lieby: ...um, there was no animosity shone except by the children, who would
33 make faces or something when we'd go by.
34

35Elsie Hornbacher: [Inaudible 14:20] Mm-hm.
36

37Betty Lieby: Yes.
38

39Elsie Hornbacher: [14:22] Did you hear them holler anything at you like, uh...
40

41Betty Lieby: No, they never [held 14:24].
42

43Elsie Hornbacher: ...American go home?
44

1 Betty Lieby: No, none, none of that.
2
3 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
4
5 Betty Lieby: And, uh, uh, as they say, when we were, uh, in Furth, the club was, was a
6 nice club and we did a lot of good there, but the war was over and the boys
7 then, I think, were eager to get home, eager to, uh, travel and enjoy
8 without all the nervousness of the war.
9
10 Elsie Hornbacher: [14:45] The, uh, boys were, uh, free to do whatever they wanted to...
11
12 Betty Lieby: Yes, they absolutely...
13
14 Elsie Hornbacher: ...except that they slept there.
15
16 Betty Lieby: Yes, that's right.
17
18 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.
19
20 Betty Lieby: That's right. And they would come into the club, uh, uh, there's no doubt
21 about that, but they weren't interested in our activities that much. It was
22 just the place to [maybe 14:58]...
23
24 Elsie Hornbacher: I can understand that.
25
26 Betty Lieby: Yes. They were eager...
27
28 Elsie Hornbacher: They were more interested in meeting the girls in Germany.
29
30 Betty Lieby: The girls...you bet.
31
32 Elsie Hornbacher: And having a good time and whooping it up.
33
34 Betty Lieby: That is absolutely true.
35
36 Elsie Hornbacher: [15:06] Was their behavior fairly, uh, reasonable?
37
38 Betty Lieby: Uh, I would say so. Uh...
39
40 Elsie Hornbacher: Maybe a little more...
41
42 Betty Lieby: ...you always get some that, uh...
43
44 Elsie Hornbacher: ...drinking?

1
2Betty Lieby: ...yes.
3
4Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh.
5
6Betty Lieby: You always get some that are a little out of hand...
7
8Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
9
10Betty Lieby: ...and of course that, uh, the ugly American started then, I'm sure.
11
12Elsie Hornbacher: Right.
13
14Betty Lieby: Uh, but, uh, 53rd Quartermaster, they, they needed civilian personnel to
15 work for them, and, but they had a lot of work to do at the end of the war.
16
17Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
18
19Betty Lieby: A quartermaster base depot would. Uh, I had been in personnel and
20 [Marian Carol 15:35], um, uh, had, well, to some extent too. So I was, uh,
21 hired in and, uh, I was asked to, uh, to recruit. Travel and recruit, and of
22 course I had to write to the, um, I had to write to the, uh, American Red
23 Cross and be, uh, relieved of my duty. And...
24
25Elsie Hornbacher: [15:59] To travel and recruit...recruit...
26
27Betty Lieby: Uh, civilian personnel who were leaving, like nurses in, in [depots that
28 were, uh...16:04]
29
30Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
31
32Betty Lieby: ...could go home...
33
34Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, yes.
35
36Betty Lieby: ...or Red Cross, uh...
37
38Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
39
40Betty Lieby: ...who were going home, or, uh, army s-, personnel.
41
42Elsie Hornbacher: And you had to replace them, is this it?
43
44Betty Lieby: I, I would hire them to work for 53rd Quartermaster...

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: In Germany.
3
4Betty Lieby: ...in a civilian capacity.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
7
8Betty Lieby: And, uh, I received a letter from our adjutant general that I'd take with me
9 and he said should any American civilian employee be available for
10 transfer from your headquarters, Miss Isom is authorized to interview and
11 accept for the commanding officer 53rd Quartermaster base depot those
12 individuals who are willing to transfer here and whose services could be
13 used by this depot.
14
15Elsie Hornbacher: [16:41] Oh, then you interviewed people who...
16
17Betty Lieby: Yes, I did.
18
19Elsie Hornbacher: ...were in Germany.
20
21Betty Lieby: Yes.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: Is this it?
24
25Betty Lieby: Not necessarily. No, I traveled...
26
27Elsie Hornbacher: Yeah, but in Europe, mm-hm.
28
29Betty Lieby: ...in Europe.
30
31Elsie Hornbacher: I see.
32
33Betty Lieby: I flew back to England on one occasion.
34
35Elsie Hornbacher: I see.
36
37Betty Lieby: And I, uh, uh, went into, uh, Holland and, uh, uh, I was all over, uh, in my,
38 my work.
39
40Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
41
42Betty Lieby: I was traveling constantly.
43
44Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, I can understand that.

1
2Betty Lieby: And, uh...
3
4Elsie Hornbacher: [17:03] Now we were, uh, the teachers were interviewed in the United
5 States.
6
7Betty Lieby: Oh, were they?
8
9Elsie Hornbacher: And then we were shipped over...
10
11Betty Lieby: Mm-hm.
12
13Elsie Hornbacher: ...but I suppose there were a few that may have been like the wives of
14 servicemen overseas.
15
16Betty Lieby: That's right.
17
18Elsie Hornbacher: They were interviewed there.
19
20Betty Lieby: Yes. Now some of the Red Cross girls wanted to stay in this capacity and,
21 uh, um, one of them, well, several of them traveled with me when I...
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
24
25Betty Lieby: ...would go out on interview. Um, Connie [Gough 17:29] and I went back
26 to Paris and Red Cross, they were very nice to us. We were allowed to
27 stay in the Normandy Hotel in Paris. It was a Red Cross hotel, and we in
28 our civilian uniforms, um, they were civilian officers' uniforms is what
29 they were, were allowed to stay there.
30
31Elsie Hornbacher: [17:47] Now the, the average civilian wouldn't know what we mean by
32 Red Cross hotel.
33
34Betty Lieby: Oh, yes, well, it was a billet. It was a place that, that housed Red Cross.
35 And it was called the Normandy, and it was, uh, in Paris.
36
37Elsie Hornbacher: [17:59] And an occupation force would take over the major building...
38
39Betty Lieby: Yes.
40
41Elsie Hornbacher: ...and the buildings we need...
42
43Betty Lieby: We need for our, our personnel.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: ...and it's a part of reparations for the Germans...
2
3Betty Lieby: Oh, abso-...
4
5Elsie Hornbacher: ...to pay us.
6
7Betty Lieby: That's right.
8
9Elsie Hornbacher: So actually we had very nice places to live overseas.
10
11Betty Lieby: Oh, absolutely.
12
13Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
14
15Betty Lieby: Absolutely. And, um, uh, it was a nice location. Nice, nice hotel. I, as I
16 say, I had stayed there before in my Red Cross uniform. This time I was in
17 civilian...
18
19Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
20
21Betty Lieby: ...uniform. And, um, uh, like I said, when I did write to the Red Cross, I
22 received an honorable discharge in, uh, on January 29 of '46. And from
23 that point to the time that I sailed home on the George W. Goethals, um, I
24 had served with the 53rd Quartermaster. During that time, Furth is just
25 adjacent to Nuremberg. I was, uh, able to attend the, the war trials, which
26 was the outstanding...
27
28Elsie Hornbacher: That would be...
29
30Betty Lieby: ...part of it.
31
32Elsie Hornbacher: [19:00] What was the building like, uh, where the war trials were held?
33
34Betty Lieby: It was a very large building, and, uh, it was, uh, uh, not too far fr-, well,
35 Nuremberg was practically flattened. It really was a flattened area. It stood
36 out like a sore thumb. This was a very large building and how it had
37 stayed, uh, intact.
38
39Elsie Hornbacher: [19:19] It was an older building, wasn't it?
40
41Betty Lieby: Oh, yes, no, the building very large.
42
43Elsie Hornbacher: I, in fact, I was not impressed with it...
44

1 Betty Lieby: No.
2
3 Elsie Hornbacher: ...when I saw it.
4
5 Betty Lieby: It wasn't.
6
7 Elsie Hornbacher: I think the seats looked, uh, hard.
8
9 Betty Lieby: Oh, yes, they were.
10
11 Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, or the cha-, what were they chairs or were they benches in there?
12
13 Betty Lieby: There were benches, sort of.
14
15 Elsie Hornbacher: Benches.
16
17 Betty Lieby: We c-, came, when we were, uh, we made the entrance, they took
18 everything away from us.
19
20 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
21
22 Betty Lieby: Everything. And we sat and they had headphones and you could dial in to
23 the, uh, to the English language, and the Germans were the prosecutors
24 when, when, I mean, the Russians were the prosecutors when I was there.
25
26 Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, I see.
27
28 Betty Lieby: But there was, uh, Goebbels and, uh, Goehring, and Hess and all of them
29 sitting there.
30
31 Elsie Hornbacher: [19:58] Were you allowed to take pictures in there?
32
33 Betty Lieby: Not at all. We took everything away from – no pictures.
34
35 Elsie Hornbacher: I see.
36
37 Betty Lieby: No pictures. And, uh, uh, no purse, no anything.
38
39 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
40
41 Betty Lieby: Uh, uh, Goehring...
42
43 Elsie Hornbacher: [20:10] Could you take notes?
44

1 Betty Lieby: ...no. Had nothing. Goehring, uh, his uniform hung on him. He had lost so
2 much weight.
3
4 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
5
6 Betty Lieby: And he was the one who took his life in prison.
7
8 Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, yes.
9
10 Betty Lieby: Uh, we also, the MPs, uh, officers took us into the Grand Hotel where all
11 of the, uh, uh, legal authorities were staying for the trial...
12
13 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
14
15 Betty Lieby: ...and that was very interesting. Uh, there were, it was a very busy place.
16 A lotta people there were involved in that trial. We also went to
17 Berchtesgaden and, uh, went up to the eagle's nest. That was quite a view
18 up there. I have movies taken of me up there. There was nothing up there.
19 Uh, one great big, uh, oak table, and I think every GI, officer, American
20 personnel had their name on there somewhere. Mine's on too.
21
22 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
23
24 Betty Lieby: Why b-, why be different? And we went through the apartment that was,
25 uh, uh, on the way up to that in the mountain. It was, there was nothing in
26 that.
27
28 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
29
30 Betty Lieby: And, uh, uh, I loved Berchtesgaden. It was magnificent.
31
32 Elsie Hornbacher: I did too. I don't think there's...
33
34 Betty Lieby: Loved it there.
35
36 Elsie Hornbacher: ...a more beautiful site in the world.
37
38 Betty Lieby: No. I loved it. I stayed at the Berchtesgadener Hof, uh, when I was there.
39
40 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
41
42 Betty Lieby: That is still military. Because when I...
43
44 Elsie Hornbacher: It still is?

1
2Betty Lieby: ...yes, because I...
3
4Elsie Hornbacher: Even now in 1985?
5
6Betty Lieby: ...yes. Well, I don't know about '85, but when I was there five or six years
7 ago.
8
9Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, in '80?
10
11Betty Lieby: I retraced my steps and went there and thought I would stay. It was the, I
12 loved that hotel.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
15
16Betty Lieby: I have two, um, uh, napkins with a swastika on them from there.
17
18Elsie Hornbacher: [Inaudible 21:47]
19
20Betty Lieby: One of the napkins.
21
22Elsie Hornbacher: [21:47] Could you stay there?
23
24Betty Lieby: No. It was, uh, it was military.
25
26Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh.
27
28Betty Lieby: No, no way. I was civilian, of course.
29
30Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
31
32Betty Lieby: Um, but my travels over there were most interesting and, uh, the people I
33 met and the conditions and all, um, it was, um, an outstanding experience
34 in my life to have been there. Um, I might have stayed longer even had my
35 mother not been ill, and I got word and I had to leave. Um, [Marian Carol
36 22:20] stayed over much longer and she stayed and taught because of her
37 theatrical experience, taught some of the German, uh, children.
38
39Elsie Hornbacher: Where?
40
41Betty Lieby: Yu-, young teens...
42
43Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
44

1 Betty Lieby: ...uh, I can't remember what city.
2
3 Elsie Hornbacher: You don't know the city? Mm-hm.
4
5 Betty Lieby: I can't remem-, I forgot the city. Isn't that awful?
6
7 Elsie Hornbacher: No, not at all.
8
9 Betty Lieby: And she taught, uh, and she put on *Abie's Irish Rose*...
10
11 Elsie Hornbacher: Oh...
12
13 Betty Lieby: ...and they did a magnificent job of it, they said.
14
15 Elsie Hornbacher: Wonderful.
16
17 Betty Lieby: She did a good job. She was an outstanding person.
18
19 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
20
21 Betty Lieby: Um, we got into also, uh, ha-, had trips into Rome, down into Rome. Did a
22 lot of traveling, uh, and of course in my capacity, uh, I certainly did. I
23 spent, as I say, New Year's Eve in Paris, Christmas in, uh, Switzerland,
24 and, uh, Easter in Holland.
25
26 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
27
28 Betty Lieby: That was quite an outst-, [chuckle] I couldn't have asked for a better, uh,
29 situation, especially with the war had, having been over.
30
31 Elsie Hornbacher: [23:14] At that time were the Germans impoverished?
32
33 Betty Lieby: Uh, no, w-, y-, when we would, uh, receive our rations, the little children
34 would come around, want, uh, uh, cigarettes or whatever we could give
35 them, candy, and we, we always did give them, uh, something, the little
36 ones.
37
38 Elsie Hornbacher: I understand after the war, they were eating out of garbage cans.
39
40 Betty Lieby: S-, I never saw that. I never did. And of course, uh, in, uh, we stayed, I
41 was, uh, a, had a lovely room on, in the bon-, on the Bahnhofstrasse in a,
42 um, house. It was sort of a house, um, and a German family, uh, took care
43 of us.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
2
3Betty Lieby: They were very, uh, lovely to us. They certainly weren't impoverished and
4 the people that we were dealing with, we took care of, I guess, because I
5 never saw that. I really did not see that except for the children begging
6 when we would go to the...
7
8Elsie Hornbacher: [24:07] This would vary in parts of Germany, wouldn't it?
9
10Betty Lieby: I would certainly think so.
11
12Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. I have friends that were in, uh, uh, East Berlin.
13
14Betty Lieby: Oh, yes.
15
16Elsie Hornbacher: And, uh, they did get to the west, but, uh, from what I gather, it was pretty
17 rough.
18
19Betty Lieby: It was rough. Oh, yes.
20
21Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh.
22
23Betty Lieby: I, I'm sure that, uh, uh, and I talked with some of the, uh, older people
24 there, and they, there was nothing they could do at the end. It was just, uh,
25 doomsville for them. They felt it. They could see it coming. He, he was,
26 uh, way out of line at the end. They, they, they had nothing to, they knew
27 that he had gone just entirely too far with the whole thing.
28
29Elsie Hornbacher: I understand that, uh, uh, they did not particularly support Hitler on an
30 individual basis.
31
32Betty Lieby: They did not.
33
34Elsie Hornbacher: If they felt like doing something, they did it. Now, I believe the Americans
35 actually were willing to give their life, uh, for our country. But the
36 Germans, I understand, did not behave that way.
37
38Betty Lieby: No, they did not. I went to, uh, one of the, uh, trips I made was to Dachau,
39 uh, and that was an awful thing to see there and of course there...
40
41Elsie Hornbacher: [25:17] Now you saw this in what year? Forty-six?
42
43Betty Lieby: In '46, so you know that when I walked into...
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: I saw...in fifty, uh, three or fifty-four.
2

3Betty Lieby: And when I walked into the room, it would knock you over with the, the
4 stench.
5

6Elsie Hornbacher: Odor. You still smell it.
7

8Betty Lieby: And they, and the blood stains on the wall...
9

10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
11

12Betty Lieby: ...where they had piled bodies. It was a, it was a, appalling.
13

14Elsie Hornbacher: I came home and was sick to my stomach...
15

16Betty Lieby: Well, you could be.
17

18Elsie Hornbacher: ...after being there for a day. Mm-hm.
19

20Betty Lieby: You could be. And that was in '46, so you can imagine.
21

22Elsie Hornbacher: And I was there in '53 or four.
23

24Betty Lieby: I passed a camp where they had prisoners and there were, uh, the SS.
25

26Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
27

28Betty Lieby: Cream of the crop in the, in the camp, and they looked pretty desolate in
29 there.
30

31Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
32

33Betty Lieby: They were by the fence and looking out, and, uh, I'm sure they all were
34 very, feeling very poorly at the time, and I'm sure they didn't all, uh, want
35 to, uh, follow him at, to the end. I, as you say, they had their own
36 opinions.
37

38Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
39

40Betty Lieby: And, uh, that was the way it was. It's, it's a shame that it had to, so many
41 lives were lost. But, um, I came, then I came back, um, through, uh,
42 Bremerhaven and came back on a liberty ship. It was a bride ship,
43 actually, uh, the, they had all the French brides and all the brides on the
44 top and the Red Cross were down in the hold and the others.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
3
4Betty Lieby: And it was the roughest crossing. Two of us ate in the dining room. Two
5 of us out of that whole ship. I had my sea legs [laughter]. And then I didn't
6 quite have them after breakfast one morning. It was a miserable crossing.
7
8Elsie Hornbacher: [26:51] Uh, was this just rough weather or was it...
9
10Betty Lieby: It was rough. Rough seas.
11
12Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
13
14Betty Lieby: It was a liber-, liberty ship is not as, uh, seaworthy as...
15
16Elsie Hornbacher: It's...
17
18Betty Lieby: ...some of them. It's kind of a round...
19
20Elsie Hornbacher: That's right.
21
22Betty Lieby: ...bottom, uh, like a [cork 27:00] out there, and it was...
23
24Elsie Hornbacher: There's quite a difference in traveling in ships.
25
26Betty Lieby: Indeed.
27
28Elsie Hornbacher: Because I was, um, uh, in, uh, one of the better ships, and in the eye of a
29 typhoon, we were adrift...
30
31Betty Lieby: Oh my.
32
33Elsie Hornbacher: ...at sea for two, two days, and, uh, fortunately, uh, I was, uh, I, I wasn't
34 seasick.
35
36Betty Lieby: See?
37
38Elsie Hornbacher: But, uh, going o-, over another time to Europe, uh, we were in a smaller
39 ship, uh, which rocked and rolled on the Atlantic, and I was icky all during
40 the passage.
41
42Betty Lieby: Oh, yes. Well, on the crossing. The convoy of 14 days, we zigged and we
43 zagged, uh, there were girls who never got out of the bunk. And we were,
44 it was the smoothest crossing you can imagine.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
3
4Betty Lieby: So some people just the slightest motion is, uh...
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: That's right.
7
8Betty Lieby: ...upsetting to them.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
11
12Betty Lieby: I flew back from, uh, Ireland on the Aer Lingus line.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: [It was 27:53]...
15
16Betty Lieby: Everyone on that, uh, plane was sea-, was sick. Airsick, and I, I was, I
17 wasn't. Had we not landed when we did, with all the commotion around
18 me, I think I might've joined them.
19
20Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
21
22Betty Lieby: Um, but, uh, that was the roughest plane ride I ever had.
23
24Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. The plane dived and...
25
26Betty Lieby: Well, it was, uh, a bouncing affair.
27
28Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
29
30Betty Lieby: Mm-hm. And there were, had the air bags, and they were all being used.
31
32Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
33
34Betty Lieby: But, um, it was, uh, it was a nice airplane. It wasn't as large as some of
35 ours.
36
37Elsie Hornbacher: [28:25] Do you remember the name of the medication we could take to
38 prevent seasi-, sickness back then?
39
40Betty Lieby: No, because I never had to...
41
42Elsie Hornbacher: I can't think of it either.
43
44Betty Lieby: ...uh, take it.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: I took some along and as I remember, I took one one time.
3
4Betty Lieby: Did you?
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
7
8Betty Lieby: I've never had to, knock on wood, had, had to take them.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
11
12Betty Lieby: Uh, but, uh, but as I say, the best, uh, it was a marvelous, uh, uh, year and
13 a half that I served and I, uh, uh, I met some lovely people, and, uh, some
14 not so lovely [laughter], but I did meet, mostly were lovely people, and it
15 was an experience, and I know the boys, I, I have letters from the boys that
16 loved our club. Loved the service that we rendered, and they, uh, uh, when
17 [Marian Carol 29:08] came as club director, that really put that club on the
18 map. The boys loved that club. She just went of-, out of her way to, to help
19 and do and serve and that was why we were there.
20
21Elsie Hornbacher: [29:20] Now your, uh, boys were roughly between the age of 18 and 30
22 probably?
23
24Betty Lieby: Yes.
25
26Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
27
28Betty Lieby: Yes. Yes, they were. I do know that if, if the war had been on our ground
29 and the foreign boys were serving over here, they wouldn't have acted any
30 differently than our boys, I'm sure.
31
32Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
33
34Betty Lieby: Boys will be boys.
35
36Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, and people are the same all over the world.
37
38Betty Lieby: Yes, they are [throat clearing]. Yes, they are.
39
40Elsie Hornbacher: I know many people thought, wow, you're going overseas, uh, uh, people
41 will be doing things over there that they don't do home, uh, this is not true.
42
43Betty Lieby: No, that is not true.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, one's behavior is pretty well established regardless of where you are
2 and you have your own limits.
3

4Betty Lieby: Absolutely.
5

6Elsie Hornbacher: And you can't, I mean, even back home, if a person suffers, uh, uh, uh,
7 unusual emotional turmoil, they may take a, they may drink for a mild
8 period of time and, uh, then give it up.
9

10Betty Lieby: That's right.
11

12Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, the permanency of, uh, a, irrational behavior is usually short.
13

14Betty Lieby: I think so. And of course under the stressful situation.
15

16Elsie Hornbacher: [Duration 30:27] Mm-hm.
17

18Betty Lieby: During a war, uh, they're [throat clearing], they're going to, uh, do things
19 to excess.
20

21Elsie Hornbacher: Yes.
22

23Betty Lieby: Uh, their freedom will be expressed, uh, uh, in that manner. They'll be, do
24 things that they wouldn't do, uh, in peaceful times.
25

26Elsie Hornbacher: That's for sure.
27

28Betty Lieby: Maybe they weren't going to be around the next day. Who knows? I have,
29 uh...
30

31Elsie Hornbacher: Overseas, I don't think they cover as much for their behavior as they do
32 home.
33

34Betty Lieby: No.
35

36Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, at home, they're more sneaky about it.
37

38Betty Lieby: That's right.
39

40Elsie Hornbacher: But overseas, uh, they don't give a darn [chuckle] who knows...
41

42Betty Lieby: They certainly don't.
43

1Elsie Hornbacher: ...what they do [laughter] because, uh, they're not going to see them, uh,
2 six months from now.
3

4Betty Lieby: Oh, that's right. That's right.
5

6Elsie Hornbacher: This is the only difference, it's, uh...
7

8Betty Lieby: Mm-hm. Mm-hm. Well, there were a lot of episodes, little interesting,
9 wonderful episodes, and, uh, interesting episodes but then, uh, I think I've
10 covered pretty much, uh, the...
11

12Elsie Hornbacher: [31:17] Uh, fraternization was discouraged at this time, though. Did you
13 have much contact with the Germans?
14

15Betty Lieby: No, I really did not except in the, uh, uh, where I was billeted and on my
16 travels, uh...
17

18Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
19

20Betty Lieby: ...in, uh, on occasion and, um, but I did not. Uh, I did not have much
21 contact. Consequently, I did not, uh, really pick up the language much. I
22 didn't have occasion to use it that much. I had more occasion to use it
23 when I went back five or six [inaudible 31:45].
24

25Elsie Hornbacher: [31:48] Uh, you went to Dachau, Betty, uh...
26

27Betty Lieby: Uh, yes, I did. Uh, of course it was, uh, y'know, the war ended, uh, just
28 after, y'know, before I got into Germany, so it was, uh, it was so sad and
29 so discouraging, uh, to go in there, uh, the, the blood marks up on the wall
30 where the bodies had been piled, and, uh, uh, and the, and the chambers
31 and all. It was, it was quite an experience.
32

33Elsie Hornbacher: Y'know, Betty, I have asked many a German about Dachau, and they said
34 they didn't know it existed. I'm not...
35

36Betty Lieby: A lot of them did not.
37

38Elsie Hornbacher: ...I have, I, I couldn't talk to a German or an Austrian who recognized the
39 fact that this was taking place, and then I began to wonder. Uh, around
40 Lansing, I'm sure there's a slaughterhouse. I would have no concept of
41 where it is or that there even was one.
42

43Betty Lieby: Uh-uh. They did not know it existed, that's for sure, anyone that I talked
44 with didn't know.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, this was common then...
3
4Betty Lieby: Mm-hm.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: ...for every person I have talked to.
7
8Betty Lieby: Right. Right. And, uh, uh...
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: However, they should...
11
12Betty Lieby: ...there were other places.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: ...have known that the Jewish people were disappearing.
15
16Betty Lieby: Absolutely. By the thousands. It was, uh, and Dachau was just one of
17 many places.
18
19Elsie Hornbacher: Yes, it was one of about four or five, wasn't it?
20
21Betty Lieby: Oh, yes. Yes.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh.
24
25Betty Lieby: And it wasn't the worst one.
26
27Elsie Hornbacher: I see.
28
29Betty Lieby: So it was, uh, so s-, so awful to, uh, to see that.
30
31Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
32
33Betty Lieby: And know that that went on. But like you said, a lot of them did not know
34 it was going on.
35
36Elsie Hornbacher: Well, we didn't know what went on in...
37
38Betty Lieby: No.
39
40Elsie Hornbacher: ...the war either, let's face it.
41
42Betty Lieby: No.
43
44Elsie Hornbacher: I mean, on the, uh, individual basis.

1
2Betty Lieby: Like I s-, uh, when we first went into Germany, I mentioned the wire
3 cutters on the Jeeps. Y'know, some of our men had been decapitated.
4 They'd string a wire across the road.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, I see. Mm-hm.
7
8Betty Lieby: A [thin 33:47] wire and they'd be going along in a Jeep. Well, that would
9 just cut their head off.
10
11Elsie Hornbacher: Ooh.
12
13Betty Lieby: And it wasn't until, y'know, for several months before that was re-, they
14 were removed.
15
16Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
17
18Betty Lieby: Uh, we had, um, now the Autobahn, oh, how many times I went on the
19 Autobahn. Uh, that was quite a road.
20
21Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [34:11] That was as good as any highway we had in the United
22 States at that time.
23
24Betty Lieby: Absolutely. I'll never forget the feeling I had one day on the Autobahn. It
25 was raining and I passed a clearing on the right-hand side. I had a driver,
26 and I was sitting in the Jeep coming back from Munich...
27
28Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
29
30Betty Lieby: ...Munchen, and there was a, a German plane with a tail up in the air with
31 a swastika on the tail...
32
33Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
34
35Betty Lieby: ...that had crashed in that clearing and it was raining and it was so, uh, it
36 brought everything right there.
37
38Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
39
40Betty Lieby: The war, and that's it. There's the end right there in that field.
41
42Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
43

1 Betty Lieby: And, um, that was a dismal, miserable day, and, um, a lot of my trips
2 were, uh, by a motorcar, y'know, going into the, um, various cities in
3 Germany to recruit American, uh, nurses, and, uh, people to work in a
4 civilian capacity for the 53rd Quartermaster. Uh, [Marian Carol 35:14]
5 remained over longer than I. Uh, my mother was ill, and that's why I came
6 home when I did. So off I went to Bremerhaven and, uh, uh, oddly enough
7 I came home on a bride ship [chuckle] out of Bremerhaven and, uh, I was
8 down in the, uh, lower decks and the brides were up on the top. It was
9 the...
10
11 Elsie Hornbacher: [35:34] Was this in the wintertime that you came home?
12
13 Betty Lieby: Uh, yes, it was the George W., no, no, it was, uh, it was in the fall.
14
15 Elsie Hornbacher: Fall.
16
17 Betty Lieby: George W. Goethals, uh, was the liberty ship.
18
19 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
20
21 Betty Lieby: It was the roughest crossing you can imagine. But having, uh, but in my
22 youth, uh, being raised in Detroit and we had a boat, a cruiser, and I was
23 used to rough water. There, two of us ate in the dining room. We would
24 have breakf-, just two of us on that whole ship. Everyone was sick.
25
26 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. Ooh.
27
28 Betty Lieby: It was really, I, I was in a, had a lower bunk, and we were three high, and I
29 exchanged with a girl so that I wouldn't get...
30
31 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
32
33 Betty Lieby: ...and w-, so few of us took showers, you would just bounced all over the
34 place.
35
36 Elsie Hornbacher: Hm. [36:21] Was it a big ship or a littler one?
37
38 Betty Lieby: It was, uh, smaller, liber-, liberty ship...
39
40 Elsie Hornbacher: That's what I would think because the...
41
42 Betty Lieby: ...has more of a round bottom-type of ship, and it just, uh...
43
44 Elsie Hornbacher: The bigger ships are, the...

1
2Betty Lieby: Oh, they're far better.
3
4Elsie Hornbacher: ...are, uh...
5
6Betty Lieby: However, on the crossing going over, which was fairly smooth, uh, we had
7 some girls who were seasick. They're just...just the listing, slight listing
8 even, uh, we had the blackouts and all.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: I never had had any problem with seasickness in, uh, the Pacific. I did, uh,
11 I, I was icky, though, most of the time, uh, going across the Atlantic by
12 ship.
13
14Betty Lieby: Were you?
15
16Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
17
18Betty Lieby: Coming back from Ireland, Marian had, uh, returned before I did. I w-, I
19 was out at the Salt, uh, hill Hotel in Monkstown on the outskirts. I stayed a
20 little longer. And, uh, when I flew back on Aer Lingus, uh, prior to
21 boarding the plane, there was an, uh, an Irishman said could you, would
22 you like to join me for a beer, y'know, and I said, uh, and I had just eaten
23 a candy bar, and he was a friendly, nice gentleman, and I, I had a beer with
24 him, so we, uh, boarded the plane and oh, what a rough, uh, uh, flight that
25 was. It was a single seater type, y'know...
26
27Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
28
29Betty Lieby: ...uh, one on each side. He sat across the aisle from me. I think everyone
30 on the plane was ill on that plane. Uh, I was writing, and I asked him for a
31 pen, and he, he just had an awful time, he was groping for that pen, he was
32 so ill. Uh, when we, if we hadn't landed when we did, I would've joined
33 them. But he had used the phone booth before, prior to my using it. I had
34 to back out of it, it was so, the stench. I had to call for my transportation,
35 but it was, we, I flew back into Liverpool.
36
37Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
38
39Betty Lieby: Uh, the very interesting part of my year and a half overseas was that I
40 spent New Year's Eve in Paris, Christmas in Switzerland, and Easter in
41 Holland.
42
43Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, wonderful.
44

1 Betty Lieby: I was on a, uh, on a business trip to, uh, Rotterdam, and I took the train up
2 through Harlem, and tulips as far as you can see on either side. And, uh,
3 one thing they do not do in Holland, and I quickly learned that, you do not
4 make a corsage there. You do not cut those flowers and make a corsage.
5 They frown on that.
6

7 Elsie Hornbacher: Oh.
8

9 Betty Lieby: I learned that. Um, but the, um, in the, uh, time I was in England, I picked
10 up, uh, you pick up a lot of the, uh, accent and of course in the midlands,
11 the, uh, the cockney accent is, uh, top, tolo, todoch...
12

13 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
14

15 Betty Lieby: ...very, uh, a very difficult to understand at times, y'know. And, uh, but
16 you're bound to pick it up, and, uh, when I first checked in – their, their
17 terminology, uh, when I first, uh, signed in at the hotel, the man at the
18 desk, uh, uh, said to me, uh, what time shall I knock you up in the
19 morning? [laughter] And that was, uh, rather surprising.
20

21 Elsie Hornbacher: [39:33] What time shall they what?
22

23 Betty Lieby: What time shall I knock you up in the morning.
24

25 Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, knock you up in the morning [laughter].
26

27 Betty Lieby: And that, uh, over here, is, uh, something entirely different [laughter]. The
28 expression on my face, uh, changed his terminology there. He...[laughter]
29 um, but you...
30

31 Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, that's great.
32

33 Betty Lieby: ...you learn a lot of their, uh, and of course the elevator is a lift and
34 y'know there's so many things they say a little differently than we do, and,
35 um, uh, I do know that, uh, the, some of the British weren't too happy with
36 our Americans overseas. I was in, uh, London, uh, and went into a little
37 book shop and two GIs had just left the shop. They didn't see me and my
38 Red Cross uniform looking at some books in the corner, and the woman
39 said, I'll be so terribly glad when these Americans leave [laughter]. And I
40 stepped around the corner and I said, but aren't you so happy that we
41 helped you.
42

43 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
44

1 Betty Lieby: And that was, uh, uh, I do believe that any, if the war had been fought on
2 our land and we had a bunch of foreign soldiers over here who didn't
3 know whether they were going to live another day...
4

5 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
6

7 Betty Lieby: ...their actions wouldn't be any different than our boys' actions were over
8 there.
9

10 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
11

12 Betty Lieby: They were, uh, uh, it takes all types, uh, most places. Some were out of
13 line, of course, but, uh, uh, basically, I thought we, uh, we had some fine
14 young men over there. I, I was, uh, I have a lot of letters from them that
15 were thanking us for what we did for them for the, in the club. I loaned
16 them money, I never got a, had it returned, y'know, they were shipped out,
17 and, um, uh, I did have a funny experience there, though, in the club, and
18 the only bad experience, I might say, uh, that disappointed me with, uh,
19 with a soldier. Uh, I was in my office in the club and, uh, a little fellow
20 came in, and it was right after they had been in Paris and they, and they
21 shaved the heads of some of the women and stole their clothes, uh, and,
22 um, he said, I have a mink coat that I would like you to have. I said you're
23 kidding. He said, now I, I can rent an apartment over here. I said you can,
24 can you? I said what are you implying? He said, well, I'd like you to have
25 the coat. I said with what, uh, something goes along with the coat, isn't
26 there? And, uh, that was what he was implying. I said, there are a lot of
27 girls that hang around this club around the corner there, go and give that
28 coat to one of them.
29

30 Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
31

32 Betty Lieby: Very...that was very insulting, very bad.
33

34 Elsie Hornbacher: Yes, I could understand that.
35

36 Betty Lieby: That was the only experience along that line that I had other than the
37 knocking on the door.
38

39 Elsie Hornbacher: [42:33] Now you mentioned the reaction of the Englishmen, uh, toward
40 the Americans. Did you have, uh, any outward disapproval of the
41 Americans being in Germany?
42

43 Betty Lieby: Uh, no. I, uh, I did not, uh, personally. I, as I said, my association there in
44 Germany was mostly with the Americans...

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
3
4Betty Lieby: ...other than where I was living.
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: Yeah, I can understand [in this era 42:56].
7
8Betty Lieby: Y'know, we weren't, there was no reason much to have the association.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, the, um, in Austria, of course Trieste, uh, fell while I was there...
11
12Betty Lieby: Mm-hm.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: ...and, uh, the Russians would spit at us.
15
16Betty Lieby: Oh, yes. Now when I was at the Grand Hotel, uh, Connie and I were there
17 with the officers had taken us in so...
18
19Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
20
21Betty Lieby: ...that we could see, uh, uh, it was quite a privilege to be in there.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
24
25Betty Lieby: There were some Russians at the next table. I could see the pajama bottom
26 sticking out of the pant leg of the one.
27
28Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
29
30Betty Lieby: He came over and asked Connie to dance.
31
32Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
33
34Betty Lieby: She had no desire to dance with him, and she refused, and they were
35 almost...
36
37Elsie Hornbacher: [43:39] Was this in Germany?
38
39Betty Lieby: ...yes, it was in Germany.
40
41Elsie Hornbacher: This would be a terribly insult. Uh...
42
43Betty Lieby: Yes.
44

1Elsie Hornbacher: I never realized that the, in, the social strata in Germany is just the reverse
2 of ours.
3

4Betty Lieby: Well, this was a Russian. A Russian asked her to dance.
5

6Elsie Hornbacher: Oh, yes. But in Germany...
7

8Betty Lieby: Oh, yes.
9

10Elsie Hornbacher: In Germany, if you refuse to, you go to a place to have fun.
11

12Betty Lieby: Yes.
13

14Elsie Hornbacher: And if you don't dance with those people who ask you, I experienced that.
15 If you don't dance with the people who are there, you are nothing but a
16 snob.
17

18Betty Lieby: Yes, I imagine.
19

20Elsie Hornbacher: Now, in, uh, in their work situation, uh, there's a defin-, definite er-,
21 hierarchy, a, and, um, uh, I mean, the superiority right down the line. Y-,
22 for example, a lower class worker would not have a better car than their
23 superior. Uh, but, uh, when you go out to have fun, you are expected, I
24 mean, if you go there to dance, you're to dance with whoever asks you to
25 dance.
26

27Betty Lieby: Mm-hm. Mm-hm. In this case, when she refused, uh, they, the, he didn't
28 like it.
29

30Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
31

32Betty Lieby: And we got up and we left, all of us.
33

34Elsie Hornbacher: I would say you would have to.
35

36Betty Lieby: We, we, we had to in order to, uh, avoid a...
37

38Elsie Hornbacher: Yes. Mm-hm.
39

40Betty Lieby: ...a little problem.
41

42Elsie Hornbacher: Now in America, it's quite the reverse.
43

44Betty Lieby: Yeah, absolutely.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh.
3
4Betty Lieby: Absolutely. Um, but it...
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: In our social life we have, uh, stratifications.
7
8Betty Lieby: That's right. That's right.
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: And we maintain them, too.
11
12Betty Lieby: Yes, we do. Yes, we do. Um, but it, um, there wasn't any problem because
13 we avoided it.
14
15Elsie Hornbacher: You avoi-, you left.
16
17Betty Lieby: We just, we left the, uh, the Grand Hotel.
18
19Elsie Hornbacher: Yes, you would have to. Mm-hm.
20
21Betty Lieby: When I went back two or three years ago and drove at Nuremberg, they
22 paid the Germans to build as it had been before the war, and it was just
23 wall to wall people and, and the, and it looked like old Germany, really...
24
25Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
26
27Betty Lieby: ...in Nuremberg as I drove along. I couldn't, as, when I was driving, pick
28 out that palace of justice where I had been [chuckle]. I was driving. I
29 couldn't take my eyes off the road. Uh, and, uh, I couldn't, uh, couldn't
30 pick out the Grand Hotel either, uh, uh, from there. But, uh, that was an
31 interesting, uh, driving through there at that time.
32
33Elsie Hornbacher: [45:59] Betty, what was your reaction when you came back to the States?
34
35Betty Lieby: Well, it was, it was exciting to see the Statue of Liberty and, uh, and all, I,
36 I, and on, aboard the ship, y'know, and talking with the girls, the, the, who
37 had been Red Cross or in my capacity there as the civilian capacity, they,
38 they all had such a wonderful experience, and we were all, but all thrilled
39 to be coming home to our good old United States. And, uh, spent, uh, a
40 couple nights in New York, um, had some things stolen out of my room
41 [chuckle]. In, in New York, isn't that fine, nice welcome. First theft.
42
43Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [46:38] Was that the first theft you had experienced in several
44 years.

1
2Betty Lieby: First, first, that's right. That's right. And, uh, and then on, on home. But
3 when I got back, mother having gone to Saint Charles, Michigan where
4 you blink your eyes and you're out of it, uh, one of the gals who came
5 back with me, she said, y'know, I'm not going to live in my little place
6 where I was. She said, let's, uh, we knew friends in Boston, some of the
7 girls were going back there, and I had never been to Denver, and we
8 flipped a coin...
9
10Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
11
12Betty Lieby: ...as to whether we'd go to Denver or Boston. Ended up in Boston.
13
14Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm. [47:16] Uh, did you have any, uh, problems adjusting yourself
15 back to stateside, uh, civilian life after having been with the army a year
16 and a half or...
17
18Betty Lieby: Uh, well, of course each day was exciting and, uh...
19
20Elsie Hornbacher: [47:33] Did you accept your friends and did your friends accept you?
21
22Betty Lieby: Oh, yes, oh, yes. There was no problem there.
23
24Elsie Hornbacher: Uh, of course, I came to Lansing where I didn't know anyone.
25
26Betty Lieby: Oh, yes.
27
28Elsie Hornbacher: But I think most of the girls who I have interviewed, uh, said they found it
29 a little difficult because, uh, when they talked of their experiences, other
30 people, uh, the, they felt alone.
31
32Betty Lieby: Yes, um, I think there's a lot in that.
33
34Elsie Hornbacher: Uh-huh.
35
36Betty Lieby: Um, people aren't interested in...
37
38Elsie Hornbacher: No.
39
40Betty Lieby: ...in what you, all the wonderful...
41
42Elsie Hornbacher: They aren't interested in what we did.
43
44Betty Lieby: ...in what we did or offered or served or, uh, th-, they could care less.

1
2Elsie Hornbacher: I, I [understand 48:13].
3
4Betty Lieby: So that's why it's so, uh, the Women's Overseas Service League is, it's...
5
6Elsie Hornbacher: It's a bond.
7
8Betty Lieby: It's a bond. And it's, it's so nice. And, um, uh, I certainly have no regrets
9 ever having gone over there because I know I rendered a service.
10
11Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
12
13Betty Lieby: And I, and, uh, I have, uh, letters to that effect.
14
15Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
16
17Betty Lieby: And it was, it was an education.
18
19Elsie Hornbacher: Mm-hm.
20
21Betty Lieby: An absolute education.
22
23Elsie Hornbacher: Well, thank you, Betty. [48:42] Are you, do you have any more to tell us?
24
25Betty Lieby: That, that is, no, I, I think not.
26
27Elsie Hornbacher: We are very happy...
28
29Betty Lieby: There're a lot of experiences, but...
30
31Elsie Hornbacher: ...to listen if you do.
32
33Betty Lieby: No, uh, I think that will be fine.
34
35
36/jw