

*IRENE CULLY*

*Denver, Colorado Unit*

*Transcript of an Oral History Interview*

*All rights, title, and interest in the material recorded are assigned and conveyed to the Women 's Overseas Service League For the purpose of publication, use in teaching, or other such uses that may Further the aims and objectives oF the League, such use and participation to be acknowledged in appropriate Fashion and with due credit to:*

*Irene Cully*

*PREFACE*

*This transcript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted on 4 March, 1906, for the Women 's Overseas Service League.*

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

*Transcribed by Patricia Siggers  
Lansing, Michigan*

*IRENE CULLY*

**E** *Denver Unit*

*MB: What is your name, please?*

**4** *IC: Irene Cully.*

*MB: When did you join the Denver Unit of WOSL?*

**6** *IC: In 1870.*

*MB: What branch of the service did you serve?*

**8** *IC: Army Nurse Corps.*

*MB: When did you go into the Army Nurse Corps?*

**10** *IC: August, 1338.*

*MB: What influenced you to go into the service?*

**12** *IC: Probably the benefits I would receive.*

*MB: Before you went into the Army Nurse Corps, what did you*  
**14** *do?*

*IC: I was working in Omaha at the Lutheran Hospital in the*  
**16** *operating room.*

*MB: What did you do in the Army Nurse Corps?*

**IB** *IC: I was a nurse anesthetist.*

MB: How long were you in the Army?

SO IC: Twenty-two years.

MB: Where did your travels take you?

EE IC: Germany, Okinawa, were my overseas assignments. Nadigan:  
I was at Nadigan For Five years. I was on the east coast  
E4 at Fort Devins; Fort Sill, OK; Fort Riley, K S . I guess  
that 's it.

EB MB: When you were in the Army - tell me about your housing?

IC: I lived in nurses' quarters, and at that time it was  
EB adequate, I guess.

MB: Tell me about the medical care that you were able to get.

30 IC: Uery good.

MB: Can you describe some oF the uniForms that you wore?

3E IC: The taupe uniForm during the war- no, we wore the pinks  
and greens, which is the best looking uniForm the Army  
34 has ever had. Then into the taupes; and then the blues.

MB: Do you have any special experiences that you 'd like to  
36 relate?

IC: Well, about being scared right aFter D day. We went to  
38 France on D - 7 . We were set

40        strafing the area, and I was giving an anesthetic in a  
tent. The strafing seemed to get closer and closer, and  
I kept leaning nearer and nearer a tent pole, which was  
42        probably about 4 inches in diameter. I have no idea what  
protection I thought that would give me.

44        MB: You were in a field hospital, right?

IC: Y e s .

46        MB: How long were you in with that particular unit?

IC: Two years and a half, I think.

48        MB: Now, you lived in tents all that time?

IC: Most of that time. At times, during the Battle of the  
50        Bulge, we were at Metz in a building. However, most of  
the time was in tents.

52        MB: When you were in the tents, how many nurses to a tent?

IC: Four .

54        MB: Did you all get along pretty well?

IC: Yes, we had to. (Laughter)

56        MB: When you went into the service, what was the greatest  
adjustment you had to make?

5B IC: I d o n 't Feel that I had much of an adjustment to make.  
It uias community living; I had been used to that. I  
60 hadn 't been out of training long. I had lived with  
another girl in an apartment, and I enjoyed it.

62 MB : When you went into the Army, did you plan to make the  
Army your career?

64 IC: I d o n 't suppose so, but I 'm glad I did.

MB: When did you decide to stay in the service?

66 IC: After the war was over. By that time, I had enough  
service which was counting toward retirement, and I  
68 couldn 't afford to give it up.

MB: After you left the Army-- after you retired, what did you  
70 do?

IC: I 've been doing volunteer work, and I did work For a  
72 little while part-time in a nursing home.

MB: What has being a member of WOSL meant to you?

74 IC: Good friendship.

MB: O.K. Thank you very much.

76 Transcribed by Patricia Siggers  
Lansing, Michigan