

GLADYS WELCH
Denver, Colorado Unit

Tr an sc ri pt of an Oral History Interview

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Welch

PREFACE

This transcript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted on 6 March, 1986, 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, 1988

GLADYS WELCH

2 Denver Unit

MB: What is your name, please?

4 GW: Gladys Welch.

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

6 GW: I think about 1976 — something like that.

MB: When you were in the service, what branch of the service
a were you in?

GW: Army Nurse Corps.

10 MB: What made you decide to go into the Army Nurse Corps?

GW: Two of my brothers joined, so I felt that I had to do
12 something too.

MB: Was this during World War II?

14 GW: Yes.

MB: What did you do before you went into the Army?

1B GW: Private duty.

MB: When you were in the service, what kind of duty did you
1B do then?

GW: When I was in the service, I did psychiatric nursing.

BO MB: How long were you in the Army?

BB GW: From 1943 to 1948 and then I got out of the Army and
Joined From 1948 to 1958.

MB: When you were in the service, where did you travel?

B4 GW: Iran and Europe.

MB: Whereabouts in Europe?

BB GW: All over Europe. I think we hit most of the countries in
Europe. We took a car trip — four of us.

BB MB: What kind of medical care was available to you when you
were in the service?

30 GW: I felt that it was good.

32 MB: Do you have any memorable experiences you would like to
share with me?

34 GW: Well, I think one was when I was in Iran with Bn I went to
the Holy Land. I think that was one of the most
beautiful experiences that I have ever had.

3B MB: Do you remember the dates that you were in Iran?

GW: From 1943 to 1948.

38 MB: What kind of a hospital setup did they have there?

MB:

40 GW: We had a general hospital, air conditioned and everything, and the temperature was 148 in the sun.

MB: What was the name of the town in Iran— if you remember?

42 GW: Isn't that funny? I can't remember.

MB: O.K. Was it a general hospital?

44 GW: It was a general hospital, yes. It was down in the desert; I know that.

46 MB: When you first went into the service, what was the biggest adjustment you had to make?

48 GW: I looked at this question quite a bit, Marge, but I really didn't see any adjustment that I had to make.

50 MB: We were used to being in a hospital, and we just went from one kind of clothing to another, really.

52 GW: That's exactly right. I really didn't feel that I had to make any adjustment. I had been away from home for some
54 time, and I just didn't feel that I had any adjustments to make.

56 MB: When you first went into the service, did you plan to make it a career?

58 GW: When I went in, in 1943; no, I didn't. Then when I went

back in 1948, I said, this is it.

60 MB: After you got out of the service, then what did you do?

GW: While I was in the service I took a course in psychiatric
68 nursing, and when I got out of the service, for two years
I worked in a private psychiatric sanitarium. Then in
64 1964, I was hired by Mercy Hospital to teach psychiatric
nursing to their students.

66 MB: What does WOSL mean to you?

GW: Well, it means meeting new friends, meeting old friends,
68 and really just enjoying the meetings and everybody that I
meet.

70 MB: Thank you very much.

GW: You're welcome.

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Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

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