# GLADYS WELCH

Denver, Colorado Unit

Tr an sc ri pt of an Oral History Interview

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appr op ri at e fashion and with due credit to: Gladys Welch

# PREFACE

This tr an sc ri pt is the product of a ta pe- recorded interview cond uc te d on 6 March, 19B6, For the W o m e n ’s Ov erseas Se rv ic e League.

Signed, dated ag re em en ts of release and biographical information accompany the original cassette.

Tr anscribed by Patricia Siggers

Lansing, Michigan

6 July, 19B8

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| **2** |  | GLADYS WELCH  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 1 9 76 — something like that. | |
| MB:  a | | When were | you were in the service, what branch of the service 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?

**IB** GW: Private duty.

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

# GLADYS WELCH, Denver Unit B

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

BO MB: How long were you in the Army?

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| BB | GW: | From 1943 to 194 B and then I got out of the Army and Joined From 194B to 1958. | |
|  | MB: | When you were in the service, where did you travel? | |
| B4 | GW: | Iran and Europe. | |
|  | MB: | Wh er ea bo ut in Europe? | |
| BB | GW: | All over Europe. I think we hit most of the countries in Europe. We took a car t r i p — 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. |
| MB: | | Do you have | any memorable experiences you would like to |

32 share with me?

GW: Well, I think one was when I was in Iran wh Bn I went to 34 the Holy Land. I think that was one of the most

beautiful ex periences that I have ever had.

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

GW: From 1943 to 194B.

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| 38 | GLADYS  MB: | WELCH, Denver Unit 3  What kind of a hospital setup did they have there? |
|  | GW: | We had a general hospital, air conditioned and |
| 40 |  | everything, and the temperature mas 148 in the sun. |
|  | MB: | What was the name of the town in Iran— if you remember? |
| **42** | GW: | I s n ’t that funny? I c a n ’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 d i d n ’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: | T h a t ’s exactly right. I really d i d n ’t feel that I had to |
| 54 |  | make any adjustment. I had been away from home for some  time, and I Just d i d n ’t feel that I had any adjustments |
|  |  | to m a k e . |
| 56 | MB: | When you first went into the service, did you plan to |
|  |  | make it a career? |

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| 58 | GLADYS  GW: | WELCH, Denver Unit 4  When I went in, in 1943; no, I d i d n ’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? |
| 68 | GW: | While I was in the service I took a course in psychiatric nursing, and when I got out of the service, for two years |
| 64 |  | I worked in a private psychiatric sanitarium. Then in  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 m e e t . |
| 70 | MB: | Thank you very much. |
|  | GW: | Y o u ’re welcome. |
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| 74 |  | Lansing, Michigan |