

1 **INTERVIEW OF RUTH WEISBERG ON HER SERVICE IN THE WOMEN'S ARMY**  
2 **AUXILIARY CORPS DURING WWII**  
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5 Ruth Weisberg: I joined the WAAC in 1943 in February. At that time, I was working for the  
6 British Ministry of War Transport in New York in Communications. At that  
7 time, it was the W-A-A-C, and I, uh, went from a comfortable apartment in  
8 Greenwich Village to a tent on the beach in Daytona Beach, um, for basic  
9 training, and it definitely was an experience. Um, from Daytona Beach, um, I  
10 went to, uh, Fort Des Moines for OCS. And, uh, in May of 1943, went to  
11 Ruston, Louisiana, and then back to Fort Des Moines and then on secret  
12 orders to, uh, Daytona Beach again and with [Tay 1:25] Miller, another  
13 second lieutenant, uh, selected a small detachment, uh, to, uh, take overseas.  
14 We, uh, [Tay 1:50] and I, uh, went to the Pentagon for, um, orientation, uh, in  
15 communications in August 1943. The Pentagon wasn't really finished at that  
16 time, and, uh, there weren't any maps either. But it was interesting. And from  
17 there, um, [we picked up 2:18] our detachment again at New York Port of  
18 Embarkation. And, um, along with the – half of the 101st Airborne Division,  
19 um, embarked on the, um, eh, HMS [Inaudible 2:42], a, uh, a British liner,  
20 which had, uh, come back from, uh, the Mediterranean with, uh, minor  
21 damage. Uh, this was, um, one of the more unusual voyages of World War II.

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23 Uh, we took 45 days from New York to Liverpool, uh, having – and, uh, we  
24 had been sabotaged and ended up in, uh, St. John's, Newfoundland. Then, um,  
25 uh, our [channel 3:24] pilot, uh, misjudged some of the rocks, and we spent  
26 some time – more time in St. John's, Newfoundland. And, finally, we  
27 transferred to, um, the, um, uh, USS, uh, John Ericsson, which had at one time  
28 been the, um, first, uh, [inaudible 3:51]. And on that, we, uh, finally got to  
29 England where, uh, [Tay 3:59] and I, uh, [took 4:00] our detachment and  
30 reported to the Office of the Military Attache at the American Embassy in  
31 London. This was a – definitely not a boring, uh, [throat clearing] assignment.  
32 It was very demanding, but as I look back on the history of the time, I realize  
33 that our little detachment handled some of the most critical, uh,  
34 communications traffic of World War II. And I feel very proud of it. We did  
35 not have any, uh, major, uh, disasters in security. We were, uh, we belonged  
36 to MIS in, uh, in Washington, DC, not to, uh, the EPO. We were very  
37 secluded in our work, uh, always behind locked doors and, therefore, did not,  
38 uh, get acquainted with, uh, very many of the, uh, uh, women in London at  
39 that time. It was, uh, interesting to, um, watch the, the British, uh, service  
40 women, uh, doing similar work and, uh, talking with them at times and  
41 comparing notes.

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43 I never minded wearing the uniform. I was quite proud of it. Of course, we di  
44 have that little hassle about whether you take your hat off or leave it on, and,

1 um, do you stand up or sit down when a, uh, senior officer, uh, approaches.  
2 Uh, and, um, there were little, uh, little things like that that always made life  
3 interesting. Um, in January of 1944, I married, uh, an officer in the 101st  
4 Airborne Division. We were married in uniform, and, um, I guess I, I, I've  
5 never felt, uh, too sad about, uh, not having a real wedding gown. Uh, I guess  
6 perhaps it was a little strange, but, um, it never bothered me. Uh, in, um, July  
7 of 1945, uh, I was separated from the service and, uh, became a, um,  
8 dependent army wife. Uh, and my husband remained on active duty for  
9 another 17 years. I guess, uh, some people would wonder why a woman  
10 would, uh, walk across the street and raise her right hand to take a job that  
11 paid \$21 a day once a month. But, uh, I ended up making \$140 a month before  
12 I got out. It has been a great pleasure to, uh, know the other, uh,  
13 servicewomen, uh, who have, uh, retired or been separated from the service  
14 and, uh, become acquainted with them. I think that this was a great  
15 opportunity for me, and I hope that other women felt the same way. I would  
16 certainly recommend, uh, military service for anyone who was, uh, truly  
17 interested in it. Goodnight.

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