

MARY DUNCAN CLARK  
Denver, Colorado Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

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Mary Duncan Clark

## PREFACE

This transcript is the product of an interview conducted 26 April, 1986, for the Women's Overseas Service League, by Marjorie Brown.

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

Transcribed by Patricia Siggers  
Lansing, Michigan

15 June, 1989

**WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE**

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**Oral History Project**

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MARY DUNCAN CLARK

8 Denver Unit

10 NOTE: Special thanks to the interviewer,  
Marjorie Brown of the Denver Unit.

12 MB: What is your name?

MC: My name is Mary Duncan Clark.

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

MC: It was early in the seventies.

16 MB: Were you in the Service?

MC: Yes, I was in the Army Nurse Corps.

18 MB: What made you decide to come into the Army Nurse  
Corps?

20 MC: My friends who were members.

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

22 MC: I went to nurses' training, and then I worked a few  
months at the Indiana University Hospital.

24 MB: What were your duties in the Service?

MC: I started out as a staff nurse; went to supervisor;  
26 chief nurse of Vietnam, in the Trang in '64 and '65;  
and chief nurse in Bad Kreuznach (Germany) in '68 to  
28 '70.

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MB: How long were you in the Service?

30 MC: Twenty eight years.

MB: Where did your travels take you?

32 MC: England, France, Germany, Japan, Vietnam, Fort Dix,  
Fitzsimmons three times, and Bad Kreuznach again.

34 MB: What kind of housing did you have?

MC: Billeets.

36 MB: What was the nature of the medical care available to  
you?

38 MC: Very good.

MB: What was your uniform dress?

40 MC: Nursing uniform, fatigues, dress uniforms.

MB: Can you relate a couple of your more exciting  
42 experiences to me?

MC: Traveling overseas, I traveled with one of my friends  
44 who was a nurse. We visited Germany, Italy, Greece,  
Africa, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Asia; and then  
46 came back through Greece, Italy, and Germany. We  
were told by some of the military that we were  
48 risking our lives if we went through Lebanon and some  
of those countries; that it was communist, and they  
50 didn't allow uniforms there (military).

We went anyway; but when we packed our suitcases  
52 -- we had purchased some Kotex and Tampax and decided  
we would put our uniforms in the bottom of the

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54 suitcase, then our civilian clothes and then this  
56 Tampax and Kotex on top -- and maybe they wouldn't  
58 look. When we went through we opened our luggage,  
60 and they just looked at them and didn't touch  
62 anything -- and no examination was made. We couldn't  
64 laugh at them at that time, but when we arrived back  
66 to our quarters we had a very good laugh over that.

68 Then, I enjoyed very much working on the board  
70 in Japan, helping with the orphans from the American  
72 military men. We helped them be adopted and helped  
74 raise money to have a place for them to stay, eat,  
76 and sleep. That's about it.

78 MB: What was the greatest adjustment you had to make when  
80 you came into the Service?

82 MC: I didn't have any, I don't think, really.

84 MB: Did you plan on making the Service a career when you  
86 first joined the Army?

88 MC: Yes, in a way. Right after the war -- d day, I  
90 decided I was going to make a career.

92 MB: What did you do after your Service was concluded?

94 MC: I'm working now at home and at my business.

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

98 MC: I've seen many people you do not meet with at other  
organizational meetings.

100 MB: O.K., thank you very much!

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End of Interview

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Transcribed by Patricia Siggers

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Lansing, Michigan

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