

DOROTHY HAUGHTON

Denver, Colorado Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

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Dorothy Haughton

## PREFACE

This transcript is the product of an interview conducted on 13 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

1 June, 1989

**WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE**

**Oral History Project**

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DOROTHY HAUGHTON

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Denver, Colorado Unit

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NOTE: Interviewer is Marjorie Brown of  
the Denver Unit.

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MB: What is your name?

DH: Dorothy Haughton.

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

DH: 1971.

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MB: Were you in the Service?

DH: I joined the American Red Cross in 1943, and then  
came into the Army in 1948.

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MB: Why did you come into the Service?

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DH: I wanted to travel, primarily.

MB: Before you came into the Army, what did you do?

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DH: I was a physical therapist before I came into the  
Army, and before I came into the Red Cross I was a  
secretary.

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MB: What did you do in the Service?

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DH: In the Red Cross I was a hospital secretary, and in  
the Army I was a physical therapist.

WOMEN'S OVERSEAS SERVICE LEAGUE  
DOROTHY HAUGHTON, Denver Unit

28 MB: What does a physical therapist do?

DH: Primarily, exercises for various disabilities;  
30 orthopedics or things like strokes, parkinsonians,  
various things with kids like cerebral palsy and  
32 various muscular disabilities and osteo.

MB: How long were you in the Army?

34 DH: Twenty years.

MB: Where did you travel while you were in the Service?

36 DH: While I was in the Army, I was in Fort Sam Houston.  
I went from there to Japan; to the Philippines; back  
38 to Japan; to Valley Forge; to Fort Knox; to Fort  
McPherson; to Madigan; to Fort Polk; to Germany; to  
40 Fitzsimmons.

MB: What kind of housing did you have when you were in  
42 the Service?

DH: It was mostly nursing quarters and for a while, I  
44 was able to live in private apartments.

MB: What kind of medical care was available to you?

46 DH: Anything that was needed.

MB: What kind of uniforms did you wear?

48 DH: When I first came in we were wearing seersucker  
wraparound duty uniforms and pink-and-greens for  
50 dress. Then we finally got into white uniforms for  
duty, and went to taupe, and then to the green with  
52 the dress blues.

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54 MB: When you went into the Service, what was the biggest  
adjustment you had to make?

56 DH: Oh, I don't really know. I'd been in the Red Cross  
before, and it was not a lot different; what I was  
doing.

58 MB: Can you relate a couple of either funny or sad or  
some experiences that were particularly notable to  
60 you?

62 DH: In Japan it was fun to travel around the country  
after the peace talks started in Korea. We were  
sending patients home as fast as they were able, and  
64 then we weren't getting any more in, so we weren't  
very busy. I bought a second-hand car, and we did a  
66 lot of traveling around the Tokyo area. I enjoyed  
that very much.

68 MB: When you went into the Army, did you plan to make it  
a career?

70 DH: Yes.

72 MB: After you left the Service -- you retired, what did  
you do?

74 DH: I worked for five years as a physical therapist at  
Colorado General Hospital. Then I quit working  
there, and stayed home and started carving and  
76 keeping up a house and yard, or trying to.

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MB: When you say you joined the Red Cross and then went  
78 into the physical therapy part of the Army; explain  
that to me?

80 DH: Well, I had never heard of physical therapy until I  
was in this hospital unit. I knew I didn't want to  
82 spend the rest of my life working in someone's  
office, and physical therapy appealed to me. One of  
84 the physical therapists I was with in Marseille  
became a good friend of mine, and she answered all  
86 my questions. She's still a good friend of mine;  
and I came home and went to p t school and worked  
88 for a little over a year as a civilian, and then  
joined the Army.

90 MB: What does being a member of WOSL mean to you?

DH: I've always liked my country, and this is a  
92 patriotic organization; and our local unit has a lot  
of neat people in it.

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94 MB: Would you recommend a career in the Service for a  
young woman today?

96 DH: Well, I think you have to have a special type of  
personality to really enjoy it, and the Army is so  
98 different now from what it was when I was in it,  
that that's a hard question to answer. I enjoyed  
100 it.

MB: O.K. Thank you very much.

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End of Interview

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