

GLADYS WELCH

Denver, Colorado Unit

Transcript of an Oral History Interview

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Gladys 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
8 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?

16 GW: Private duty.

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

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

20 MB: How long were you in the Army?

GW: From 1943 to 1946 and then I got out of the Army and
22 joined from 1948 to 1958.

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

24 GW: Iran and Europe.

MB: Whereabout in Europe?

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

28 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 when I went to
34 the Holy Land. I think that was one of the most
beautiful experiences that I have ever had.

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

GW: From 1943 to 1946.

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

GW: We had a general hospital, air conditioned and
40 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
62 nursing, and when I got out of the service, for two years
I worked in a private psychiatric sanitorium. 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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